# LGBT rights by country or territory

Laws affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people vary greatly by country or territory — encompassing everything from the legal recognition of same-sex marriage to the death penalty for homosexuality.

Laws that affect LGBT people include, but are not limited to, the following:

- laws concerning the recognition of same-sex relationships, including same-sex marriage, civil unions, and domestic partnerships
- laws concerning LGBT parenting, including adoption by LGBT people
- anti-discrimination laws in employment, housing, education, public accommodations
- anti-bullying legislation to protect LGBT children at school
- hate crime laws imposing enhanced criminal penalties for prejudice-motivated violence against LGBT people
- bathroom bills affecting access to sex-segregated facilities by transgender people
- laws related to sexual orientation and military service
- laws concerning access to assisted reproductive technology
- sodomy laws that penalize consensual same-sex sexual activity
- age of consent laws that may impose higher ages for same-sex sexual activity
- laws regarding donation of blood by men who have sex with men
- laws concerning access to sex reassignment surgery and hormone replacement therapy
- legal recognition and accommodation of reassigned gender

Notably, 25 countries, all of which being developed democracies or developing democracies, recognized same-sex marriage as of 2018. By contrast, 10 countries or jurisdictions, all of which are Islamic and ruled by sharia, were imposing the death penalty for homosexuality.

In 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed its first resolution recognizing LGBT rights, following which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a report documenting violations of the rights of LGBT people, including hate crimes, criminalization of homosexual activity, and discrimination. Following the issuance of the report, the United Nations urged all countries which had not yet done so to enact laws protecting basic LGBT rights.[4][5]

**LGBT rights worldwide**

The Stonewall Inn in the gay village of Greenwich Village, Manhattan, site of the June 1969 Stonewall riots, the cradle of the modern LGBT rights movement.[1][2][3]

| | |
|---|---|
| **Location** | Worldwide |
| **Caused by** | Homophobia and transphobia |
| **Goals** | Increasing legal rights for LGBT people<br>Increasing acceptance of LGBT people<br>Countering internalized homophobia and internalized transphobia |
| **Methods** | Civil resistance<br>Coming out<br>Consciousness raising<br>Direct action |
| **Resulted in** | Success at many of the aims<br>Legalized same-sex marriage and other LGBT rights in some jurisdictions<br>Backlash<br>Continuing widespread homophobia and transphobia |

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- Congo
- Feudal Japan
- Lesotho
- Papua New Guinea

**Global LGBT rights maps**

**Timeline**

**LGBT-related laws by country or territory**
- Africa
  - Northern Africa
  - Western Africa
  - Central Africa
  - Southeast Africa
  - Horn of Africa
  - Indian Ocean states
  - Southern Africa
- Americas
  - North America
  - Central America
  - Caribbean
  - South America
- Asia
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  - South Asia
  - East Asia
  - Southeast Asia
- Europe
  - European Union
  - Central Europe
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  - Northern Europe
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  - Western Europe
- Oceania
  - Australasia
  - Melanesia

Micronesia
Polynesia

**See also**

**Notes**

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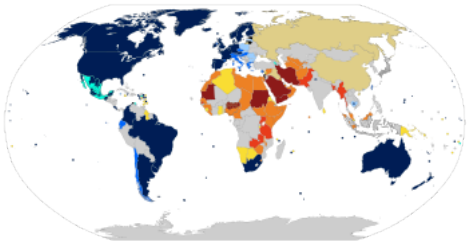
# History of LGBT-related laws



**Worldwide laws regarding same-sex intercourse and freedom of expression and association**

**Same-sex intercourse legal**

- Marriage[1]
- Marriage recognized but not performed[1]
- Civil unions[1]
- Limited legal recognition[1]
- Same-sex unions not recognized
- Laws restricting freedom of expression and association

**Same-sex intercourse illegal**

- Unenforced penalty[2]
- Imprisonment
- Life imprisonment
- Death penalty

Rings indicate areas where local judges have granted or denied marriages or imposed the death penalty in a jurisdiction where that is not otherwise the law or areas with a case-by-case application.

[1]Some jurisdictions in this category may currently have other types of partnerships.

[2]No arrests in the past three years or moratorium on law.

## Ancient Celts

According to Aristotle, although most "belligerent nations" were strongly influenced by their women, the Celts were unusual because their men openly preferred male lovers (*Politics* II 1269b).[6][7] H. D. Rankin in *Celts and the Classical World* notes that "Athenaeus echoes this comment (603a) and so does Ammianus (30.9). It seems to be the general opinion of antiquity."[7] In book XIII of his *Deipnosophists*, the Roman Greek rhetorician and grammarian Athenaeus, repeating assertions made by Diodorus Siculus in the 1st century BC (*Bibliotheca historica* 5:32), wrote that Celtic women were beautiful but that the men preferred to sleep together. Diodorus went further, stating that "the young men will offer themselves to strangers and are insulted if the offer is refused". Rankin argues that the ultimate source of these assertions is likely to be Poseidonius and speculates that these authors may be recording "some kind of bonding ritual ... which requires abstinence from women at certain times".[7]

## Ancient India

Throughout Hindu and Vedic texts there are many descriptions of saints, demigods, and even the Supreme Lord transcending gender norms and manifesting multiple combinations of sex and gender.[8] There are several instances in ancient Indian epic poetry of same sex depictions and unions by gods and goddesses. There are several stories depicting love between those of the same sex, especially among kings and queens. Kamasutra, the ancient Indian treatise on love talks about feelings for same sexes. Transsexuals are also venerated including Lord Vishnu as Mohini and Lord Shiva as Ardhanarishwara (which means half woman).[9]

## Ancient West Asia

### Ancient Israel

The ancient Law of Moses (the Torah) forbids men lying with men (intercourse) in Leviticus 18 and gives a story of attempted homosexual rape in Genesis in the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities being soon destroyed after that. The death penalty was prescribed. In Deuteronomy 22:5, cross-dressing is condemned as being "abominable".

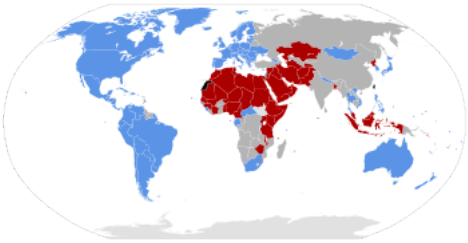
### Ancient Persia

In Persia homosexuality and homoerotic expressions were tolerated in numerous public places, from monasteries and seminaries to taverns, military camps, bathhouses, and coffee houses. In the early Safavid era (1501–1723), male houses of prostitution (*amrad khane*) were legally recognized and paid taxes. Persian poets, such as Sa'di (d. 1291), Hafiz (d. 1389), and Jami (d. 1492), wrote poems replete with homoerotic allusions. The two most commonly documented forms were commercial sex with transgender young males or males enacting transgender roles exemplified by the köçeks and Sufi spiritual practices in which the practitioner admired the form of a beautiful boy in order to enter ecstatic states and glimpse the beauty of God.

### Assyria

In Assyrian society, sex crimes were punished identically whether they were homosexual or heterosexual.[10] An individual faced no punishment for penetrating someone of equal social class, a cult prostitute, or with someone whose gender roles were not considered solidly masculine.[10][11] Such sexual relations were even seen as good fortune, with an Akkadian tablet, the *Šumma ālu*, reading, "If a man copulates with his equal from the rear, he becomes the leader among his peers and brothers".[12][13] However, homosexual relationships with fellow soldiers, slaves, royal attendants, or those where a social better was submissive or penetrated were treated as bad omens.[14][15]

Middle Assyrian Law Codes dating 1075 BC has a particularly harsh law for homosexuality in the military, which reads: "If a man have intercourse with his brother-in-arms, they shall turn him into a eunuch."[16][17][18] A similar law code reads, "If a seignior lay with his neighbor, when they have prosecuted him (and) convicted him, they shall lie with him (and) turn him into a eunuch". This law code condemns a situation that involves homosexual rape. Any Assyrian male could visit a prostitute or lie with another male, just as long as false rumors or forced sex were not involved with another male.[19]



**LGBT rights at the United Nations**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Support** | States which supported the LGBT rights declaration in the General Assembly or on the Human Rights Council in 2008 or 2011 |
| **Oppose** | States which supported an opposing declaration in 2008 and continued their opposition in 2011 |
| **Neither** | States which did not support either declaration |
| **Subsequent member** | South Sudan, which was not a member of the United Nations in 2008 |
| **Non-member states** | States that are not voting members of the United Nations |

## Ancient Rome

The "conquest mentality" of the ancient Romans shaped Roman homosexual practices.[20] In the Roman Republic, a citizen's political liberty was defined in part by the right to preserve his body from physical compulsion or use by others;[21] for the male citizen to submit his body to the giving of pleasure was considered servile.[22] As long as a man played the penetrative role, it was socially acceptable and considered natural for him to have same-sex relations, without a perceived loss of his masculinity or social standing.[23] The bodies of citizen youths were strictly off-limits, and the *Lex Scantinia* imposed penalties on those who committed a sex crime *(stuprum)* against a freeborn male minor.[24] Acceptable same-sex partners were males excluded from legal protections as citizens: slaves, male prostitutes, and the *infames*, entertainers or others who might be technically free but whose lifestyles set them outside the law

"Homosexual" and "heterosexual" were thus not categories of Roman sexuality, and no words exist in Latin that would precisely translate these concepts.[25] A male citizen who willingly performed oral sex or received anal sex was disparaged, but there is only limited evidence of legal penalties against these men, who were presumably "homosexual" in the modern sense.[26] In courtroom and political rhetoric, charges of effeminacy and passive sexual behaviors were directed particularly at "democratic" politicians *(populares)* such as Julius Caesar and Mark Antony.[27]

Roman law addressed the rape of a male citizen as early as the 2nd century BC, when a ruling was issued in a case that may have involved a man of same-sex orientation. It was ruled that even a man who was "disreputable and questionable" had the same right as other citizens not to have his body subjected to forced sex.[28] A law probably dating to the dictatorship of Julius Caesar defined rape as forced sex against "boy woman, or anyone"; the rapist was subject to execution, a rare penalty in Roman law.[29] A male classified as *infamis*, such as a prostitute or actor, could not as a matter of law be raped, nor could a slave, who was legally classified as property; the slave's owner, however, could prosecute the rapist for property damage.[30]

In the Roman army of the Republic, sex among fellow soldiers violated the decorum against intercourse with citizens and was subject to harsh penalties, including death,[31] as a violation of military discipline.[32] The Greek historian Polybius (2nd century BC) lists deserters, thieves, perjurers, and "those who in youth have abused their persons" as subject to the *fustuarium*, clubbing to death.[33] Ancient sources are most concerned with the effects of sexual harassment by officers, but the young soldier who brought an accusation against his superior needed to show that he had not willingly taken the passive role or prostituted himself.[34] Soldiers were free to have relations with their male slaves;[35] the use of a fellow citizen-soldier's body was prohibited, not homosexual behaviors per se.[36] By the late Republic and throughout the Imperial period, there is increasing evidence that men whose lifestyle marked them as "homosexual" in the modern sense served openly.[37]

Although Roman law did not recognize marriage between men, and in general Romans regarded marriage as a heterosexual union with the primary purpose of producing children, in the early Imperial period some male couples were celebrating traditional marriage rites. Juvenal remarks with disapproval that his friends often attended such ceremonies.[38] The emperor Nero had two marriages to men, once as the bride (with a freedman Pythagoras) and once as the groom. His consort Sporus appeared in public as Nero's wife wearing the regalia that was customary for the Roman empress.[39]

Apart from measures to protect the prerogatives of citizens, the prosecution of homosexuality as a general crime began in the 3rd century of the Christian era when male prostitution was banned by Philip the Arab. By the end of the 4th century, after the Roman Empire had come under Christian rule, passive homosexuality was punishable by burning.[40] "Death by sword" was the punishment for a "man coupling like a woman" under the Theodosian Code.[41] Under Justinian, all same-sex acts, passive or active, no matter who the partners, were declared contrary to nature and punishable by death.[42]

### Congo

E. E. Evans-Pritchard recorded that in the past male Azande warriors in the northern Congo routinely took on young male lovers between the ages of twelve and twenty, who helped with household tasks and participated in intercrural sex with their older husbands. The practice had died out by the early 20th century, after Europeans had gained control of African countries, but was recounted to Evans-Pritchard by the elders to whom he spoke.[43]

### Feudal Japan

In feudal Japan, homosexuality was recognized, between equals (bi-do), in terms of pederasty (wakashudo), and in terms of prostitution. The younger partner in a pederastic relationship often was expected to make the first move; the opposite was true in ancient Greece. In religious circles, same-sex love spread to the warrior (samurai) class, where it was customary for a boy in the *wakashū* age category to undergo training in the martial arts by apprenticing to a more experienced adult man. The man was permitted, if the boy agreed, to take the boy as his lover until he came of age; this relationship, often formalized in a "brotherhood contract",[44] was expected to be exclusive, with both partners swearing to take no other (male) lovers. The Samurai period was one in which homosexuality was seen as particularly positive. Later when Japanese society became pacified, the middle classes adopted many of the practices of the warrior class.

### Lesotho

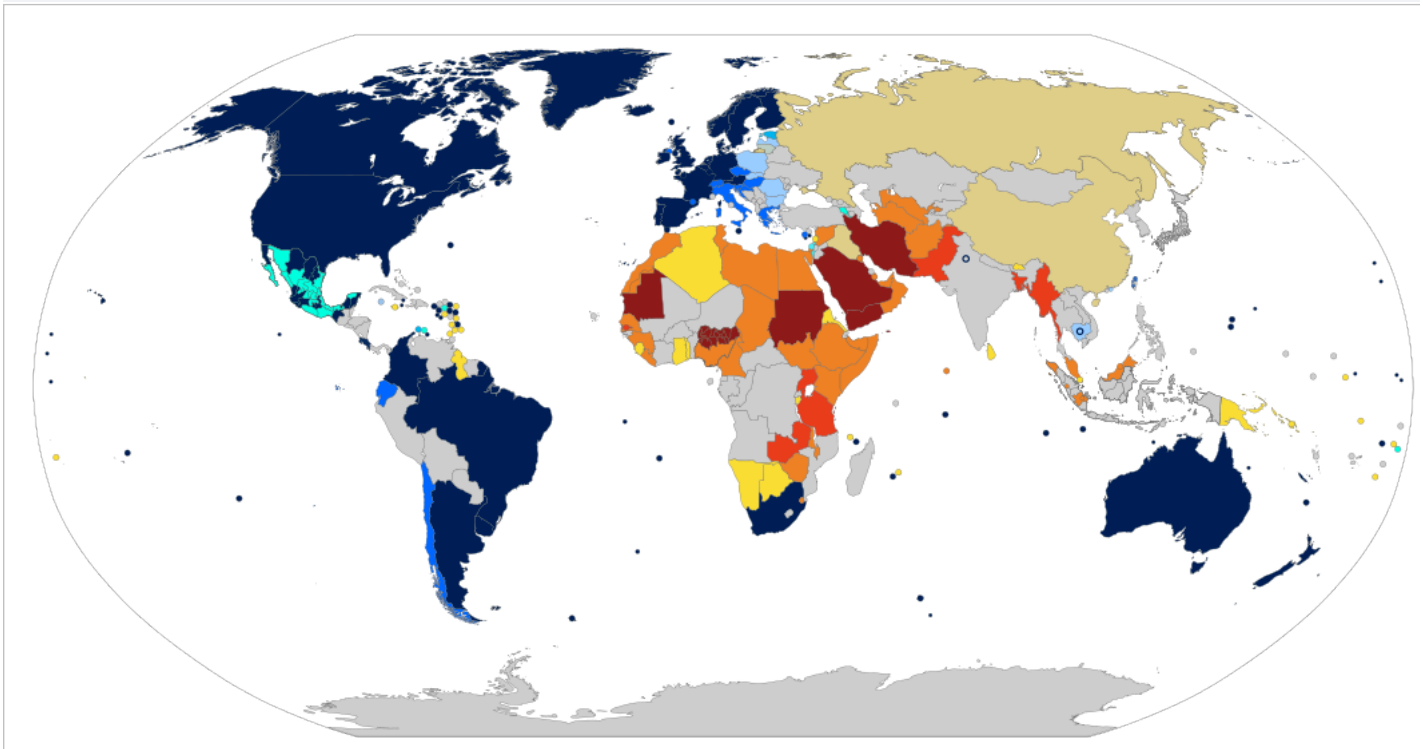
Anthropologists Stephen Murray and Will Roscoe reported that women in Lesotho engaged in socially sanctioned "long term, erotic relationships" called *motsoalle*.[45]

### Papua New Guinea

In Papua New Guinea, same-sex relationships were an integral part of the culture of certain tribes until the middle of the last century. The Etoro and Marind-anim for example, even viewed heterosexuality as wasteful and celebrated homosexuality instead. They believed that in sharing semen, they are sharing their life force, yet women simply wasted this force any time they didn't get pregnant after sex. In many traditional Melanesian cultures a prepubertal boy would be paired with an older adolescent who would become his mentor and who would "inseminate" him (orally, anally, or topically, depending on the tribe) over a number of years in order for the younger to also reach puberty.[46]

## Global LGBT rights maps

**Laws regarding same-sex sexuality by country or territory**

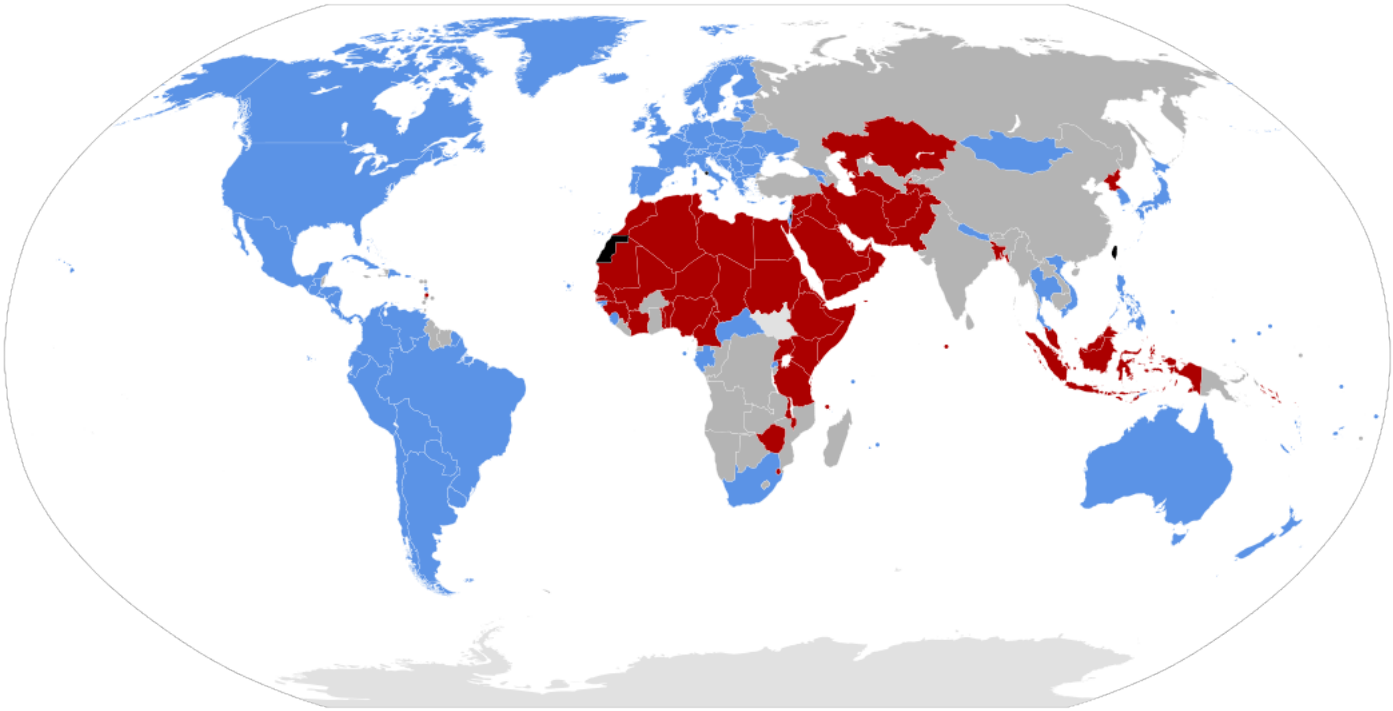


Laws regarding same-sex sexuality by country or territory

Same-sex marriage

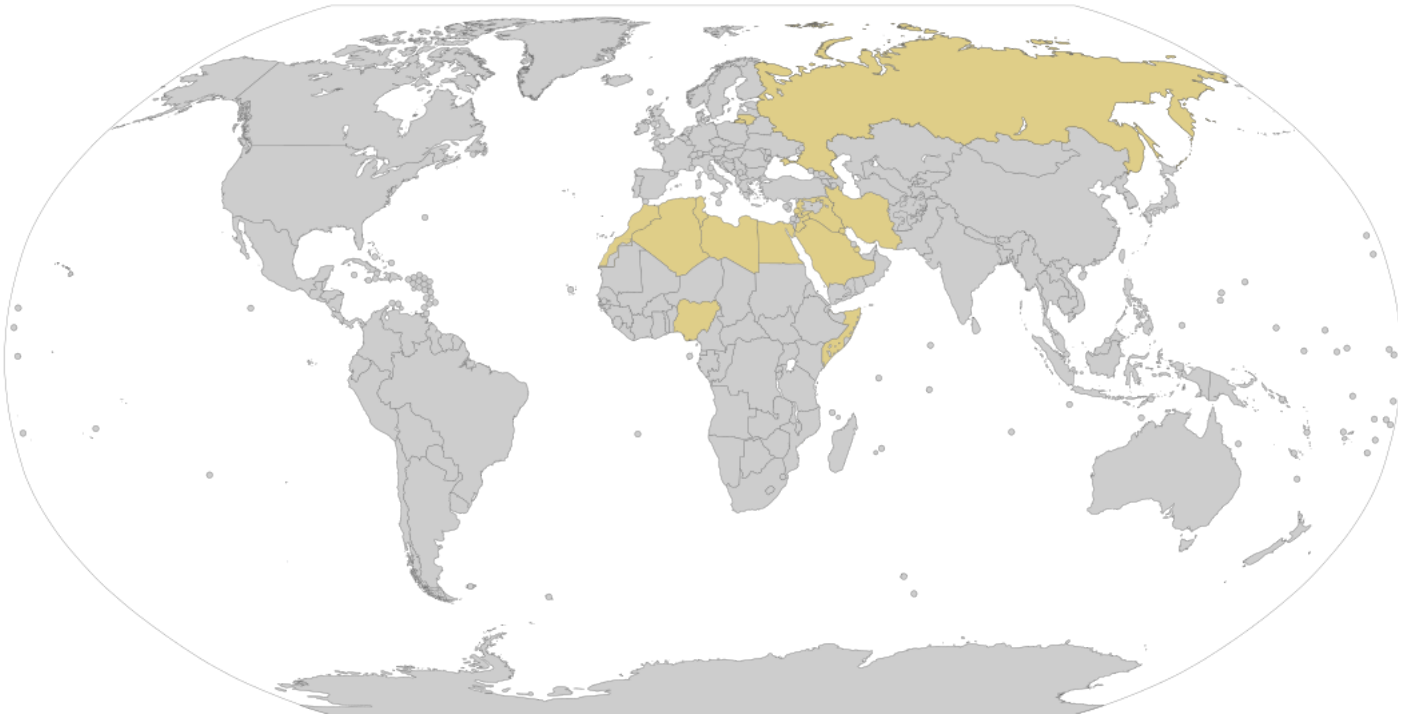
Other type of partnership (or unregistered cohabitation)
Foreign same-sex marriages recognized
No recognition of same-sex couples
Laws restricting freedom of expression and association
De jure penalty that is de facto not enforced
Imprisonment
Imprisonment (up to life sentence)
Up to death

**LGBT rights at the United Nations**



**Support**
Countries which have signed a General Assembly declaration of LGBT rights and/or sponsored the Human Rights Council's 2011 resolution on LGBT rights (**96 members**)
**Oppose**
Countries which signed a 2008 statement opposing LGBT rights (initially 57 members, now **54 members**)
Neither
Countries which, as regards the UN, have expressed neither official support nor opposition to LGBT rights (**44 members**)

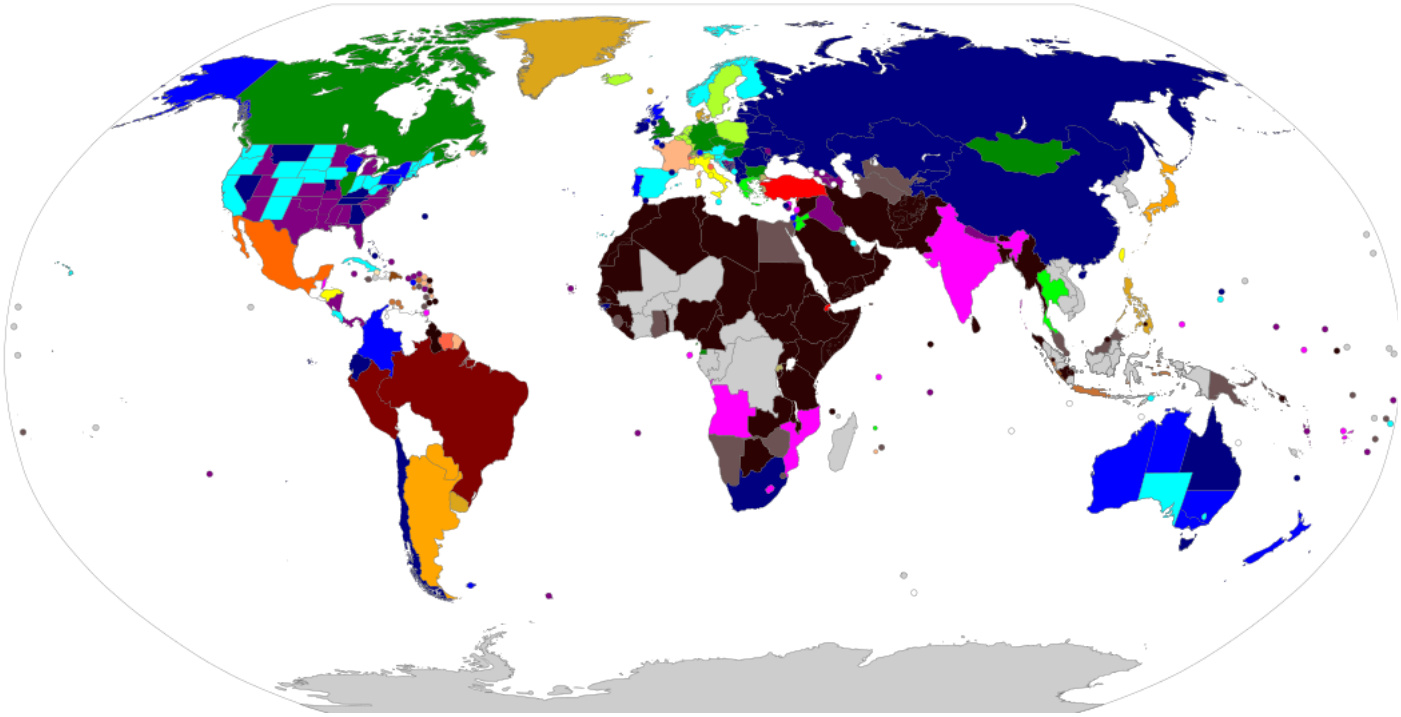
**Homosexual "propaganda" and "morality" laws by country or territory**



**Homosexual "propaganda" and "morality" laws by country or territory**

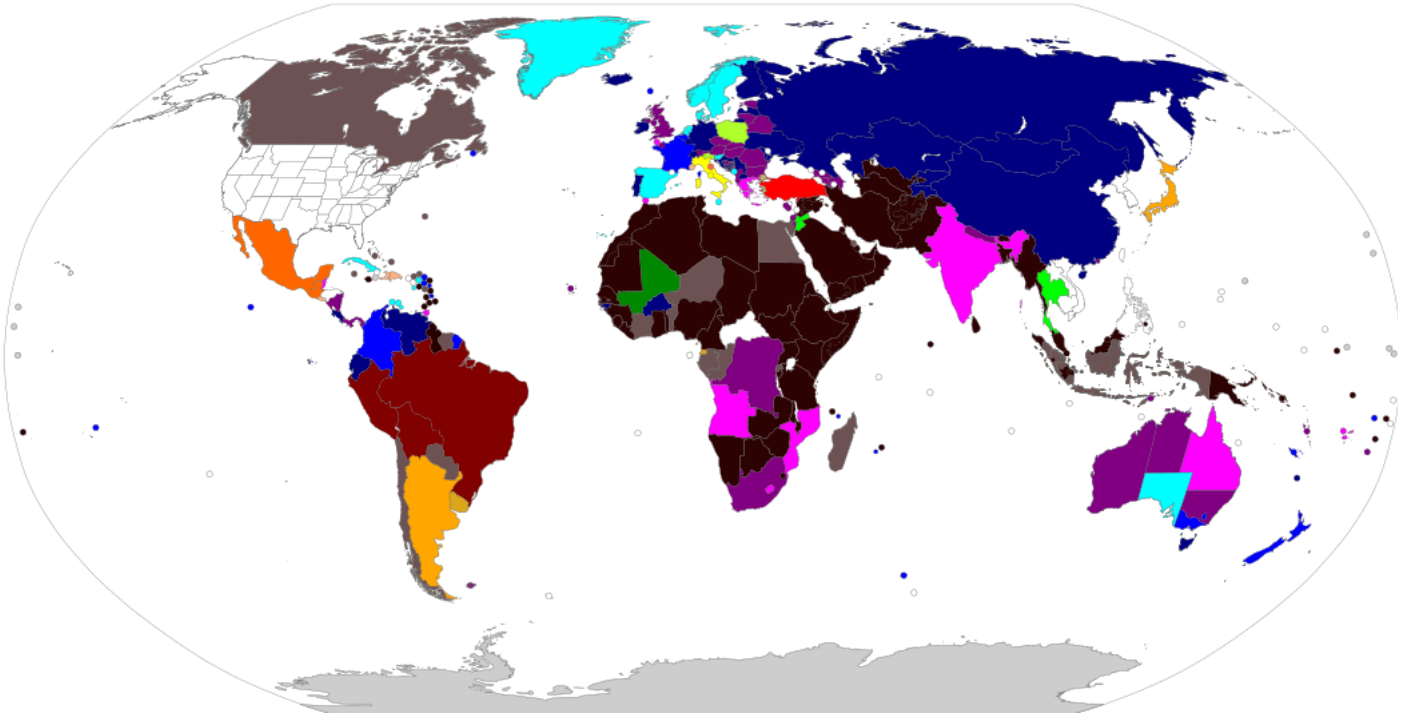
- Countries or territories that don't have homosexual "propaganda" or "morality" laws
- Fine[47]
- Unknown punishment
- Imprisonment

**Decriminalization of same-sex sexual intercourse by country or territory**



- 1790–1799
- 1800–1819
- 1820–1829
- 1830–1839
- 1840–1859
- 1860–1869
- 1870–1879
- 1880–1889
- 1890–1909
- 1910–1919
- 1920–1929
- 1930–1939
- 1940–1949
- 1950–1959
- 1960–1969
- 1970–1979
- 1980–1989
- 1990–1999
- 2000–2009
- 2010–present
- Unknown date of legalization of same-sex intercourse
- Same-sex sexual intercourse always legal
- Male same-sex sexual intercourse illegal
- Same-sex sexual intercourse illegal

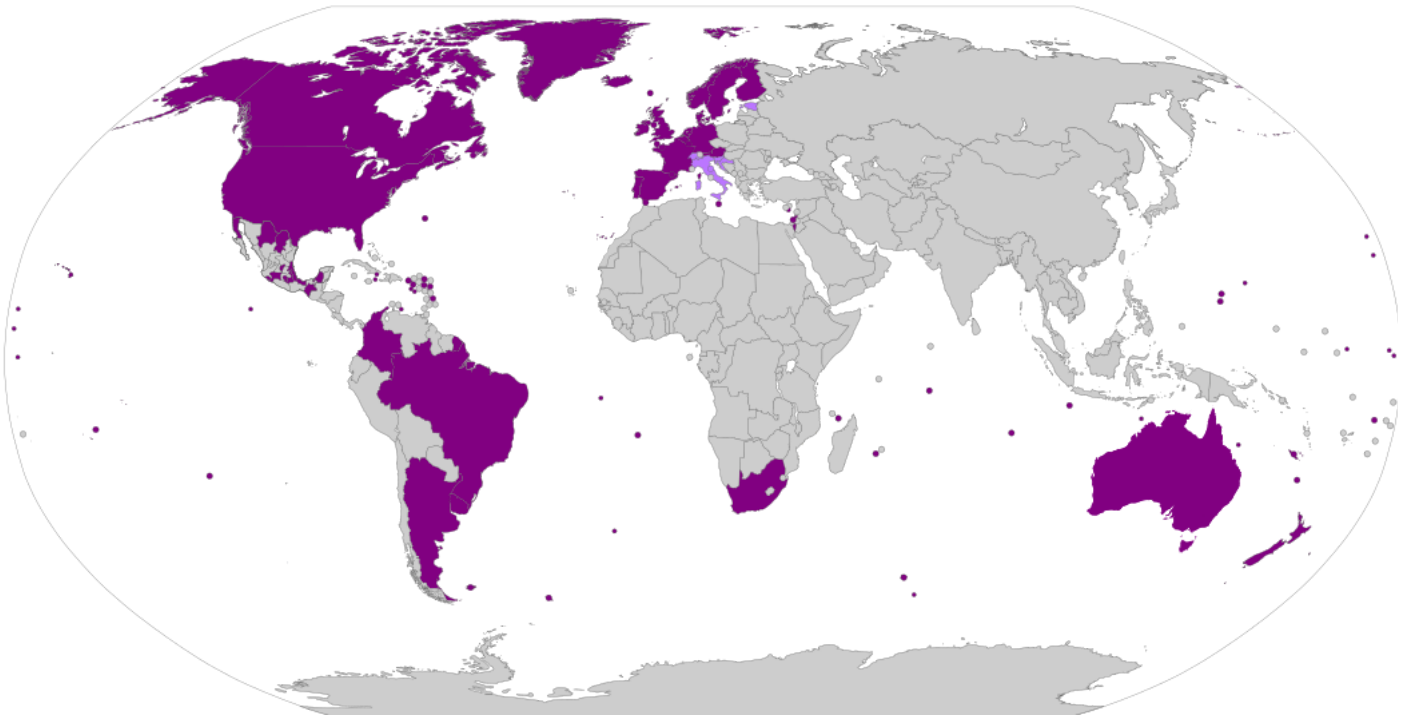
**Equalization of age of consent laws for same-sex couples by country or territory**



- 1790–1829
- 1830–1839
- 1840–1859
- 1860–1869
- 1870–1879
- 1880–1889
- 1890–1929
- 1930–1939
- 1940–1949[1]
- 1950–1959
- 1960–1969
- 1970–1979
- 1980–1989
- 1990–1999
- 2000–2009
- 2010-present
- Unknown date for equal age of consent laws for opposite and same-sex couples
- No consent laws/equal age of consent laws always equal for opposite and same-sex couples
- Unequal age of consent laws for same-sex couples
- Same-sex sexual intercourse illegal

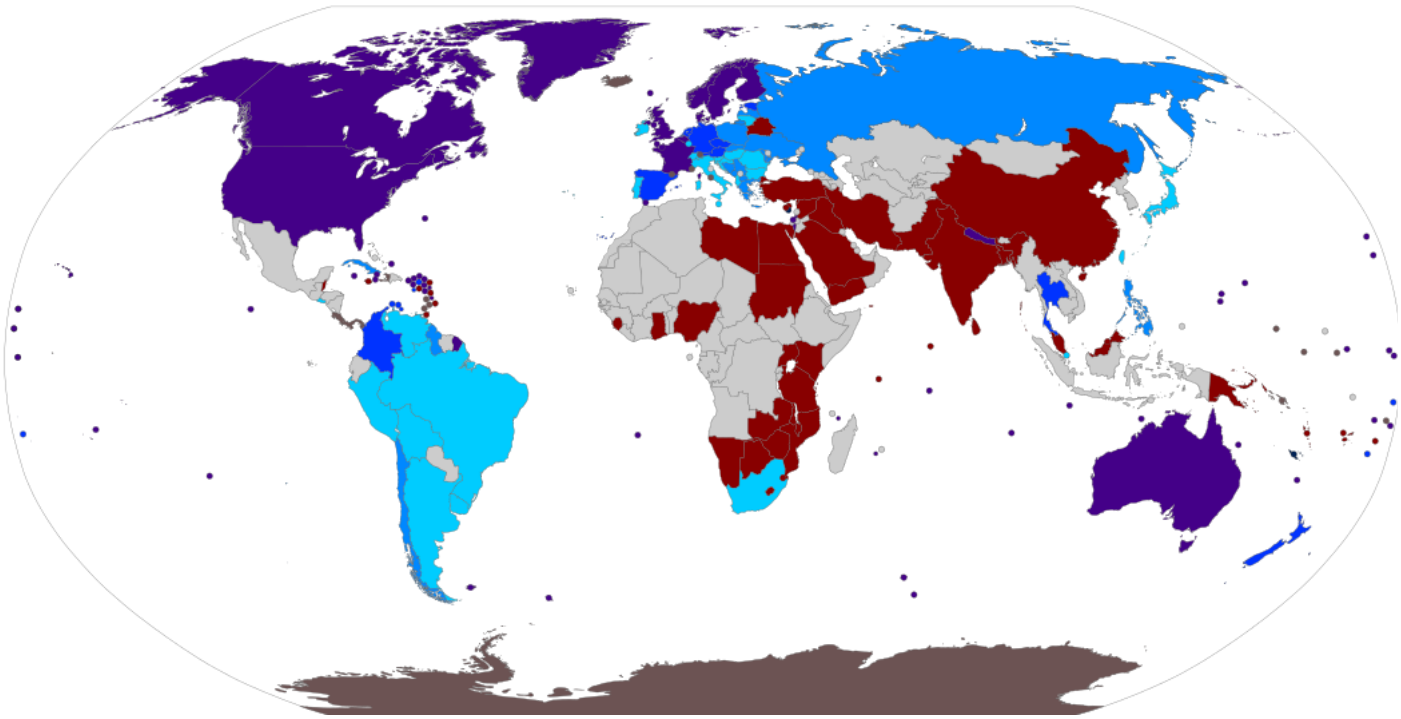
[1] During World War II, Nazi Germany annexed territory or established reichskommissariats which extended Germany's laws against same-sex sexual intercourse to those territories and reichskommissariats. Age of consent was previously equalized for same-sex couples in the following countries or territories before German annexation or establishment of reichskommissariats: Belluno (legal in 1890), Friuli-Venezia Giulia (legal in 1890), Poland (legal in 1932), and Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol (legal in 1890). All countries and territories listed that where annexed or established into reichskommissariats by Nazi Germany during World War II where restored as independent countries or reincorporated into their previous countries during or after the war and thus re-legalized equal age of consent laws for same-sex couples in those areas.

## Legal status of adoption by same-sex couples by country or territory



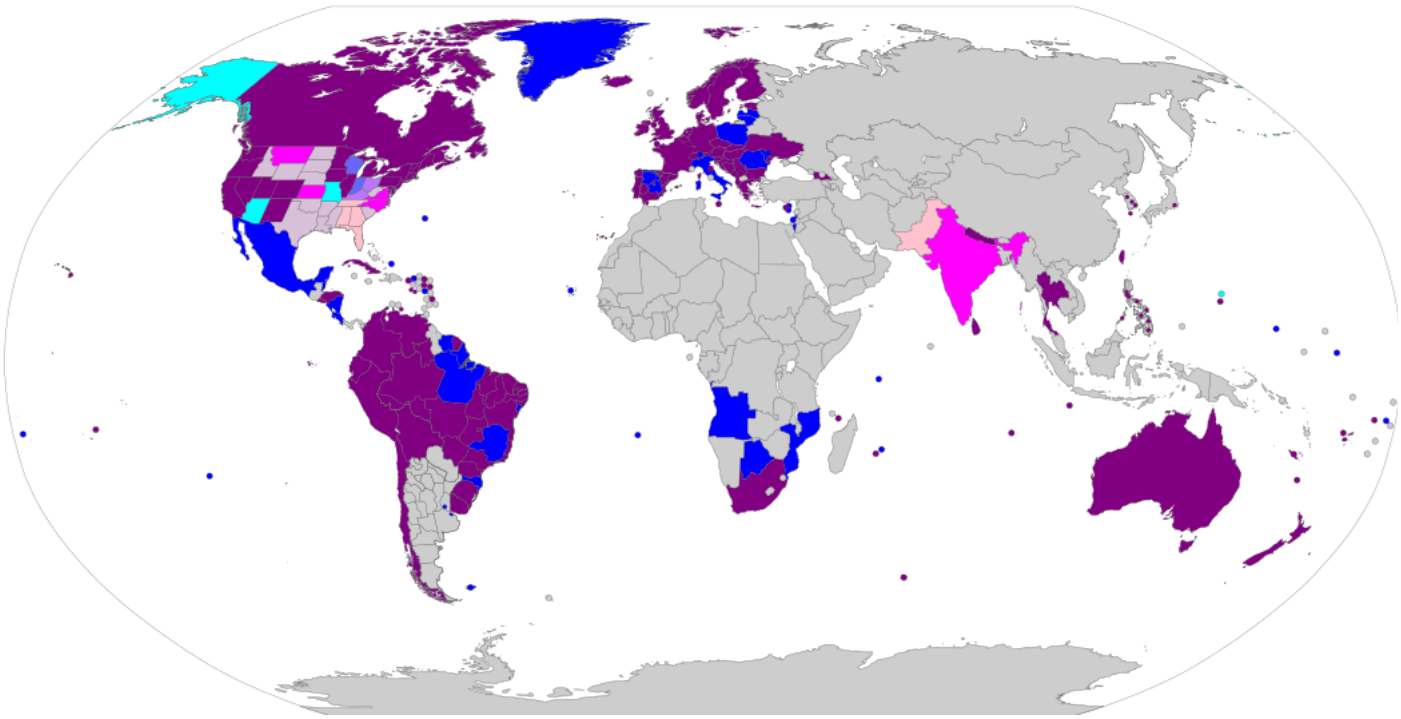
- Joint adoption allowed
- Second-parent adoption allowed
- No laws allowing adoption by same-sex couples

**LGBT service in national militaries by country or territory**



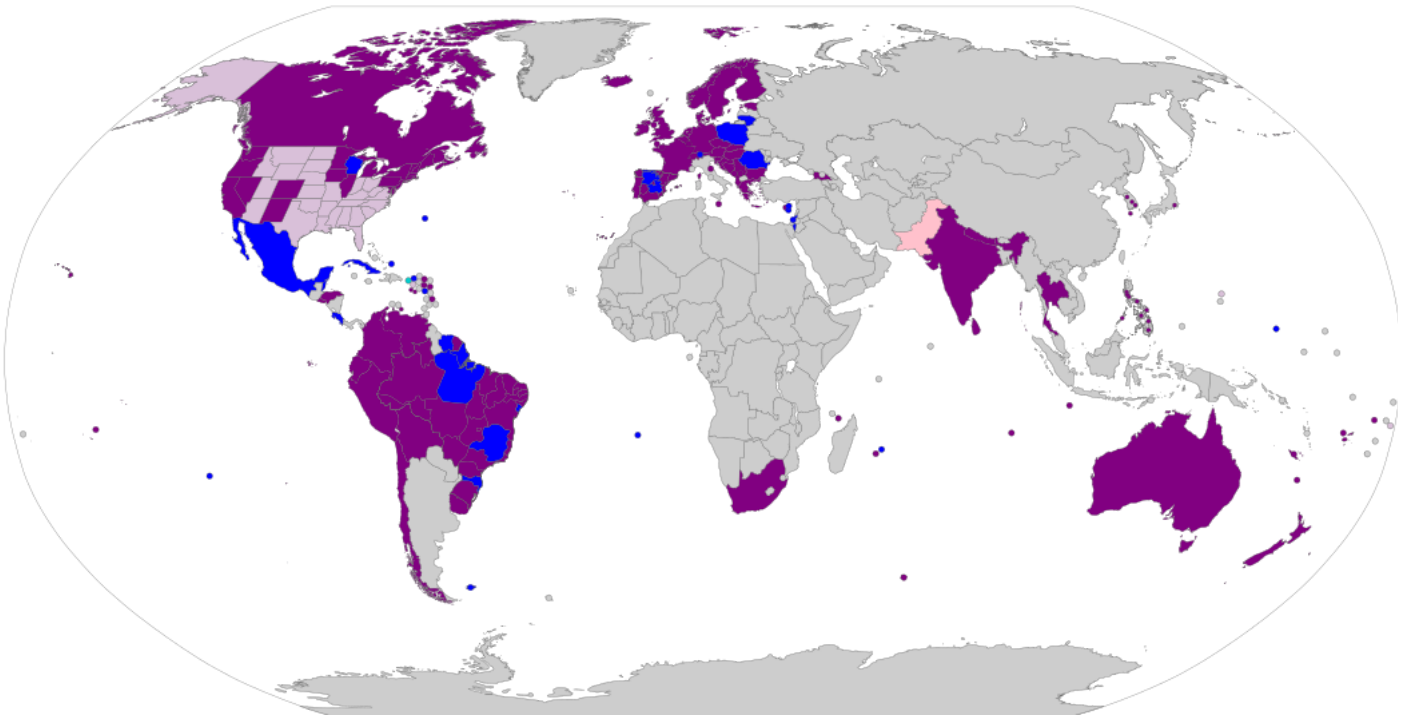
- All LGBT people can serve
- GBT men can serve
- LGB people can serve
- GB men can serve
- Ambiguous/unknown policy
- LGBT people are banned from serving
- No military

**Employment discrimination laws by sexual orientation and/or gender identity by country or territory**



- Sexual orientation and gender identity: all employment
- Sexual orientation with anti–employment discrimination ordinance and gender identity solely in public employment
- Sexual orientation: all employment
- Gender identity: all employment
- Sexual orientation and gender identity: federal public employment and federal contractors
- Sexual orientation and gender identity: public employment
- Sexual orientation: public employment
- No national-level employment laws covering sexual orientation and/or gender identity

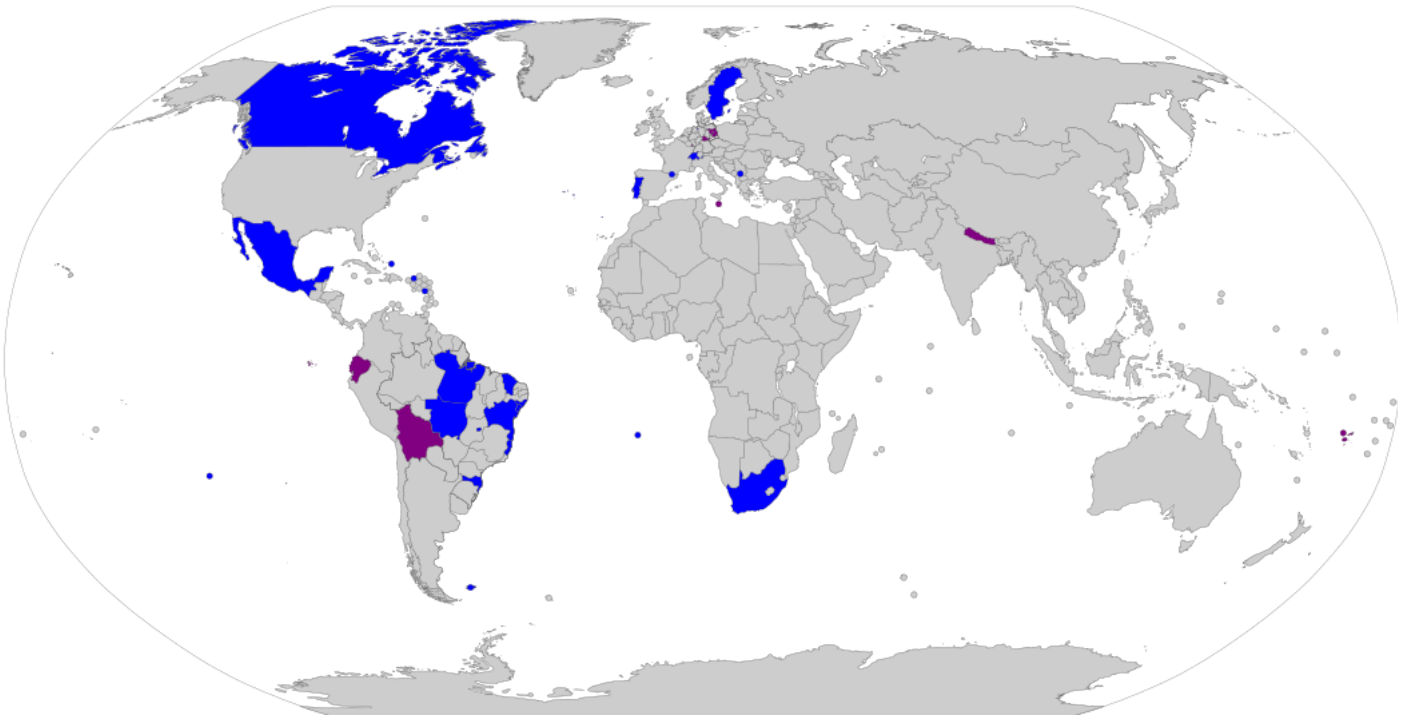
## Anti-discrimination laws covering goods and services by sexual orientation and/or gender identity by country or territory



**Countries and territories with LGBT anti-discrimination laws in goods and services**

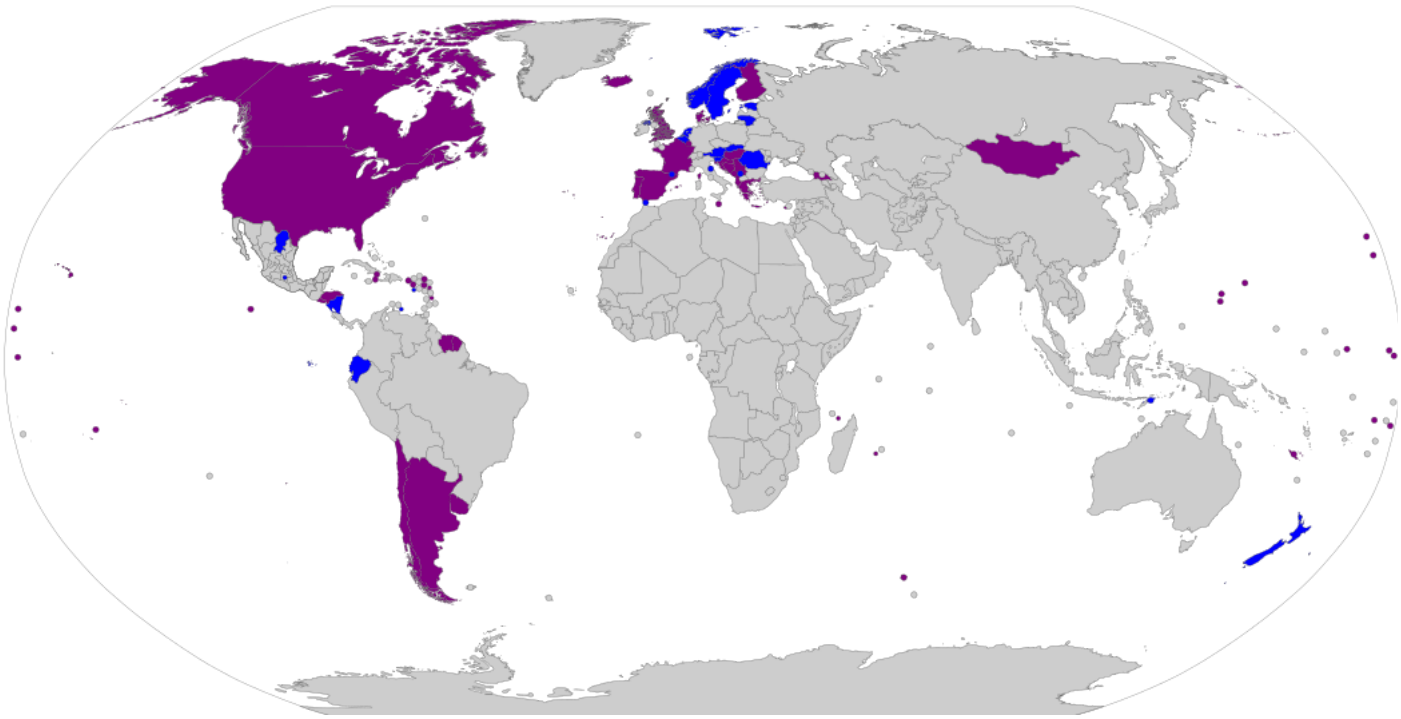
- Sexual orientation and gender identity covered
- Sexual orientation covered
- Gender identity covered
- No national or local level anti-discrimination laws covering sexual orientation and/or gender identity in goods and services

## Constitutional discrimination laws by sexual orientation and/or gender identity by country or territory



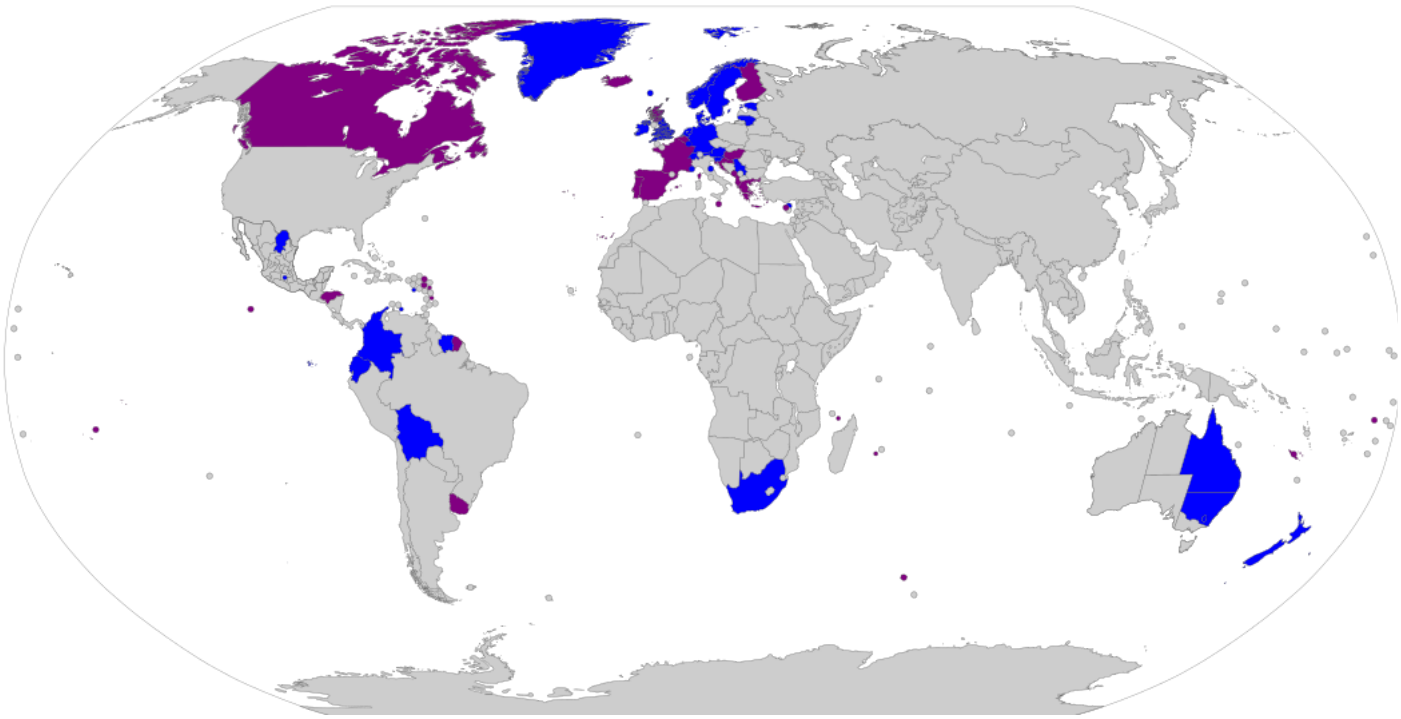
Sexual orientation and gender identity covered
Sexual orientation covered
Gender identity covered
No national or local level constitutional discrimination laws covering sexual orientation and/or gender identity

**LGBT hate crime laws by country or territory**



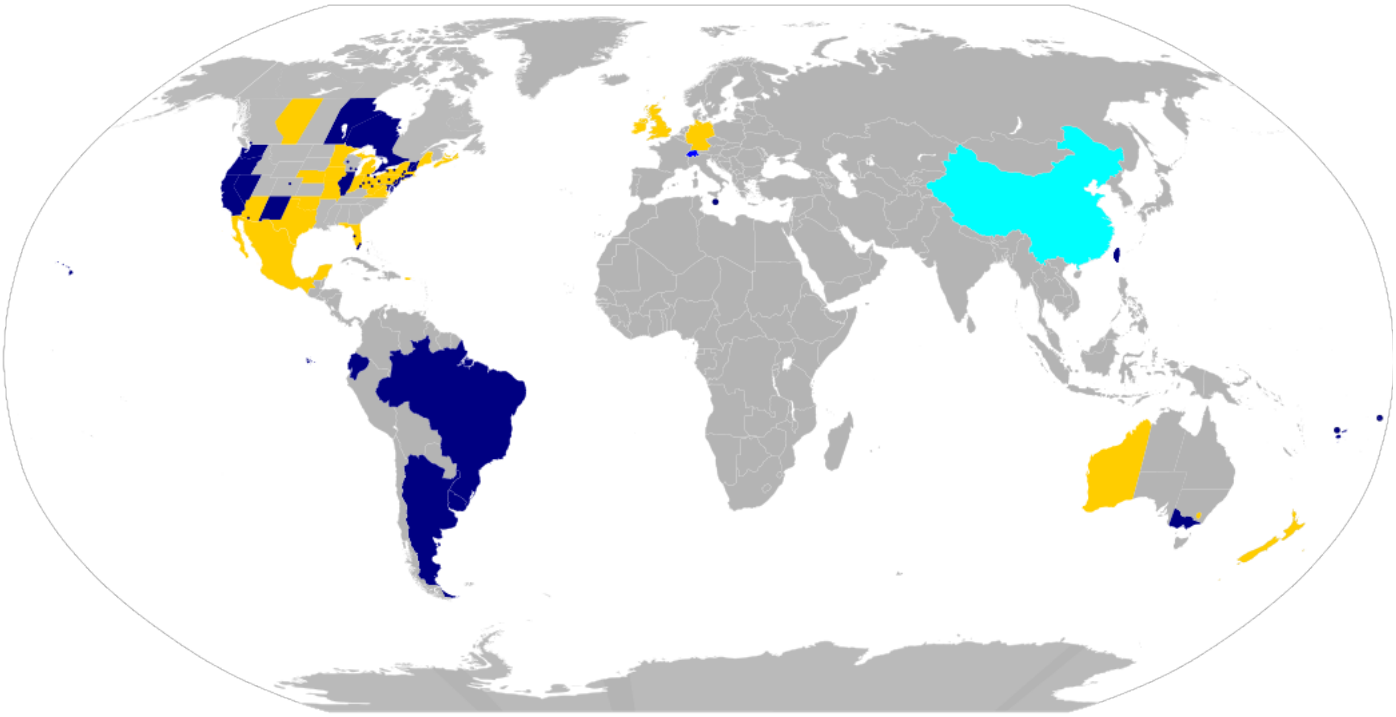
Sexual orientation and gender identity hate crime laws
Sexual orientation hate crime laws
No LGBT hate crime laws

**Incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation and gender identity prohibited by country or territory**



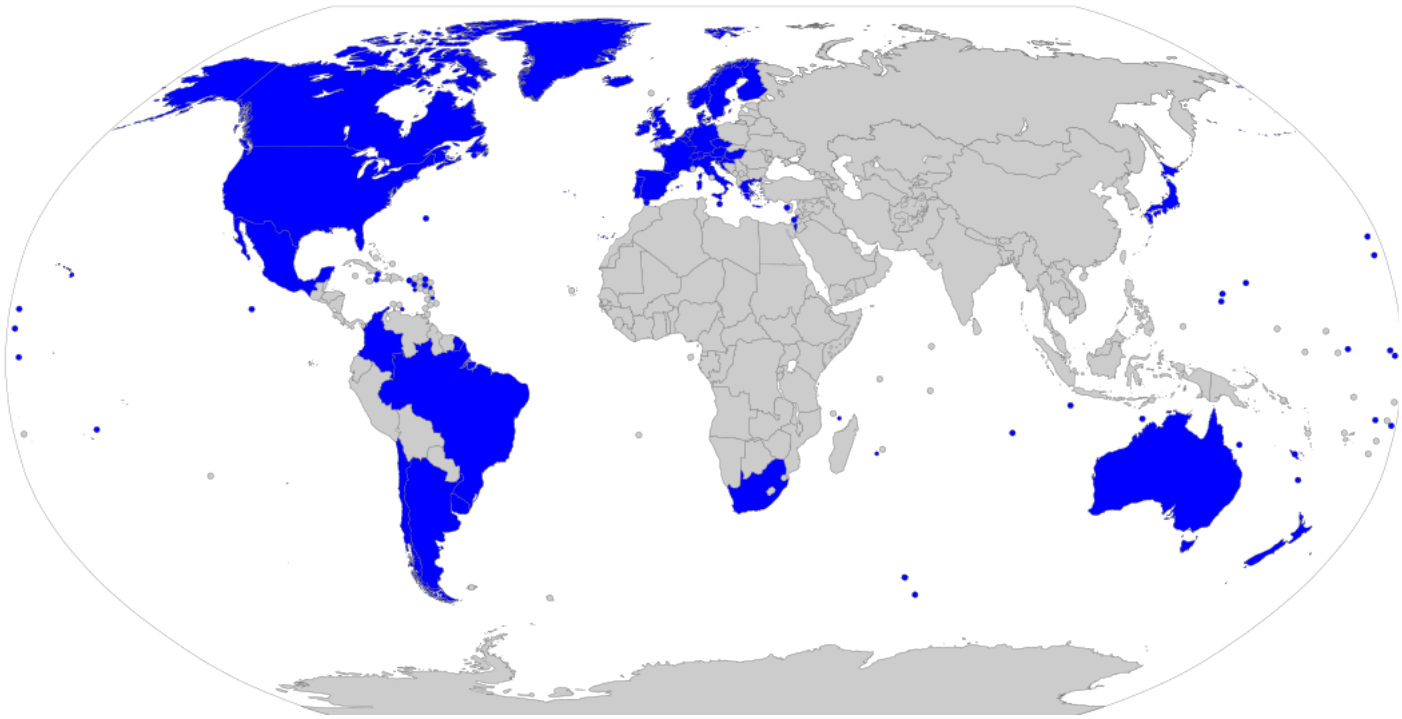
Incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation and gender identity prohibited
Incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation prohibited
No prohibition on incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation and gender identity

**Ban on conversion therapy for minors on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity by country or territory**



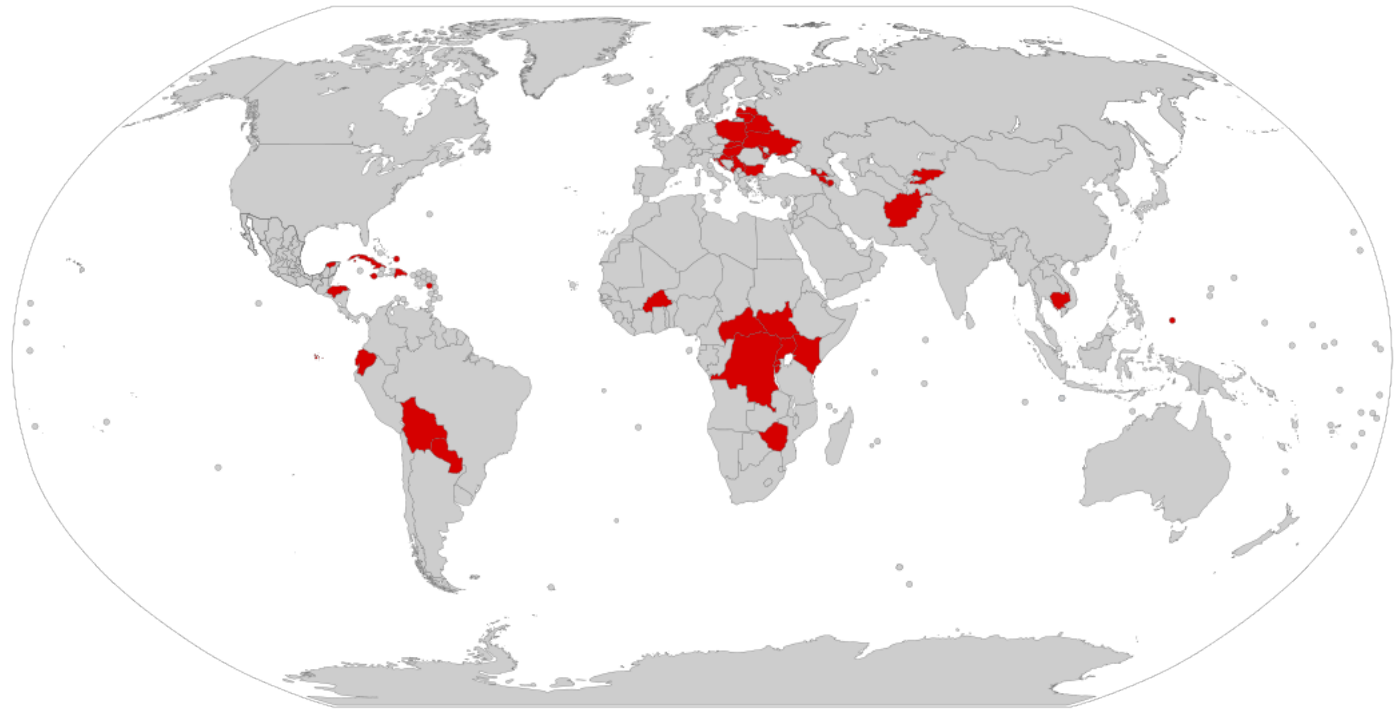
Ban on conversion therapy on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity
De facto ban on conversion therapy
Case-by-case bans
Proposed ban on conversion therapy
No ban on conversion therapy

**LGBT immigration equality by country or territory**



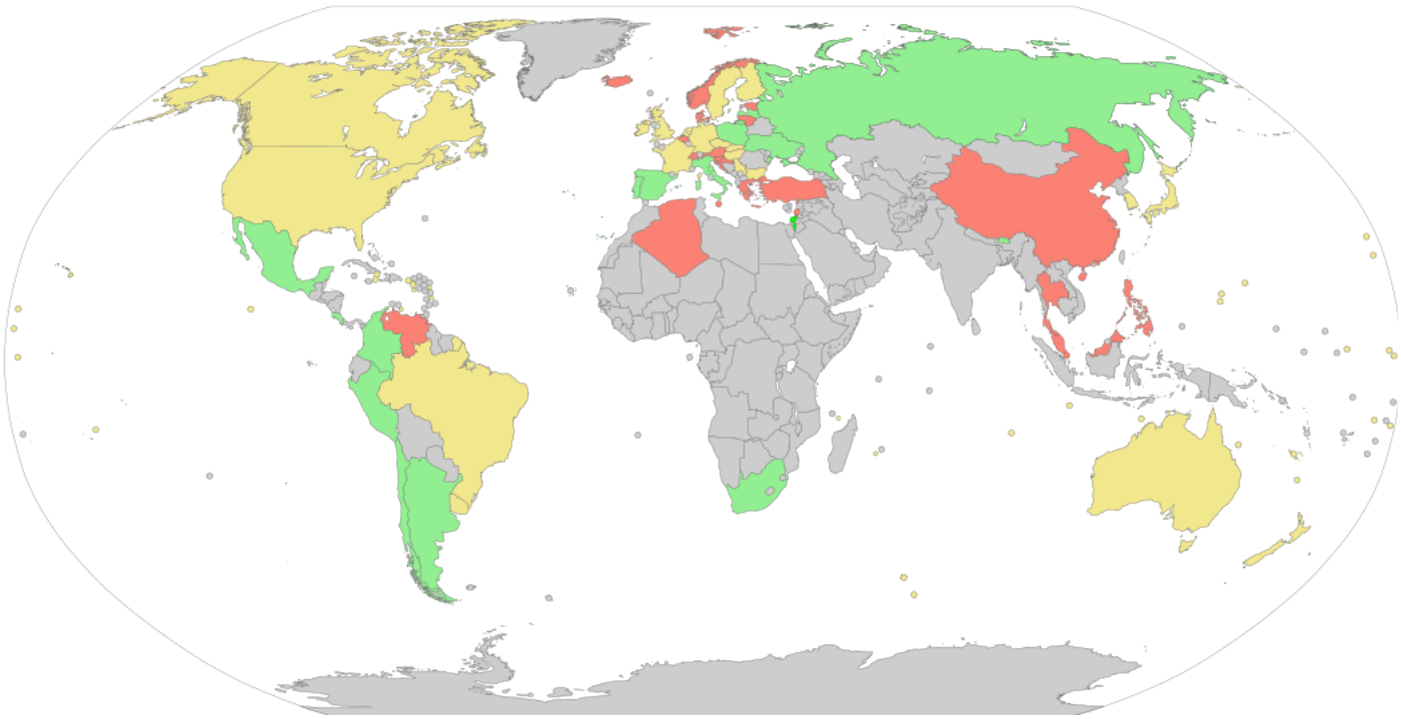
Recognition of same-sex couples in national immigration laws
Unknown/ambiguous

**Bans on same-sex unions by country or territory**



No specific prohibition of same-sex marriages or unions
Constitution bans same-sex marriage

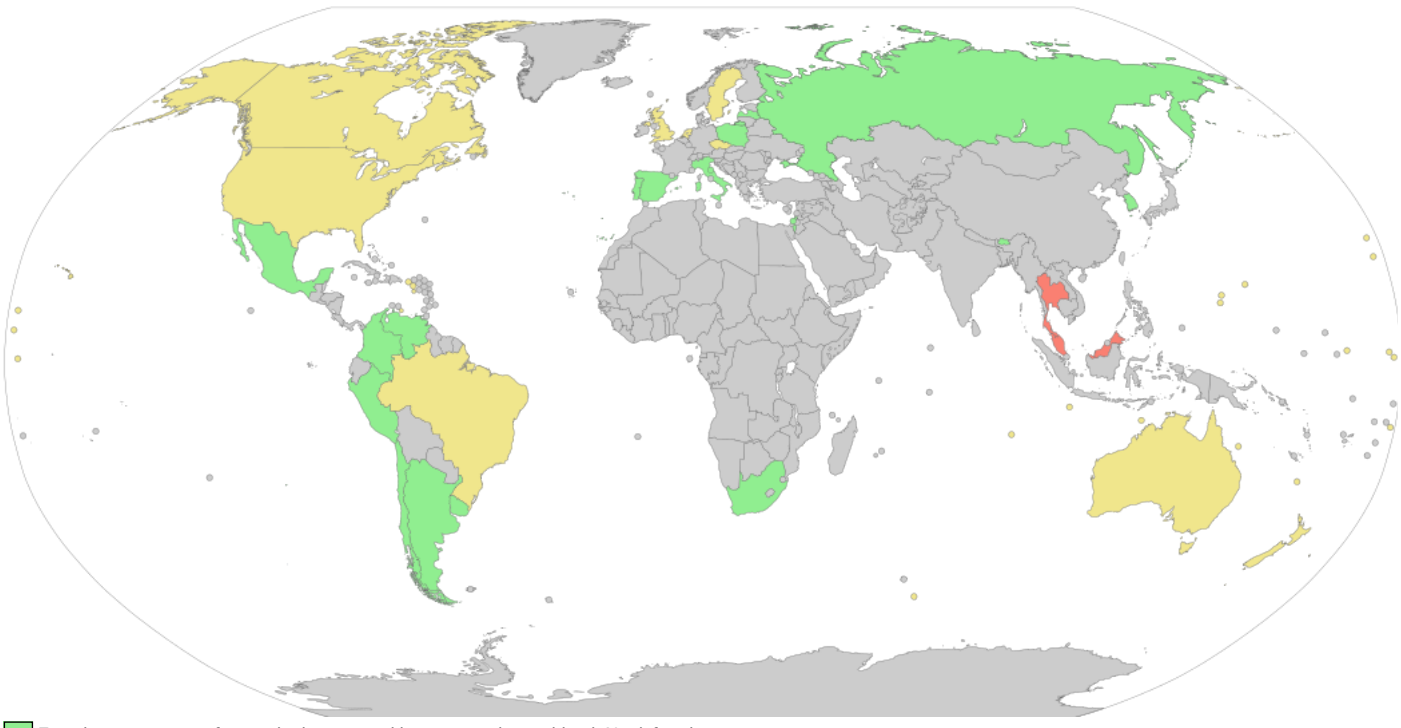
**Blood donation policies for men who have sex with men by country or territory**



Men who have sex with men may donate blood; **No deferral**
Men who have sex with men may donate blood; **No deferral, except for blood transfusions**[1]
Men who have sex with men may donate blood; **Temporary deferral**[1]
Men who have sex with men may not donate blood; **Permanent deferral**[1]
No Data

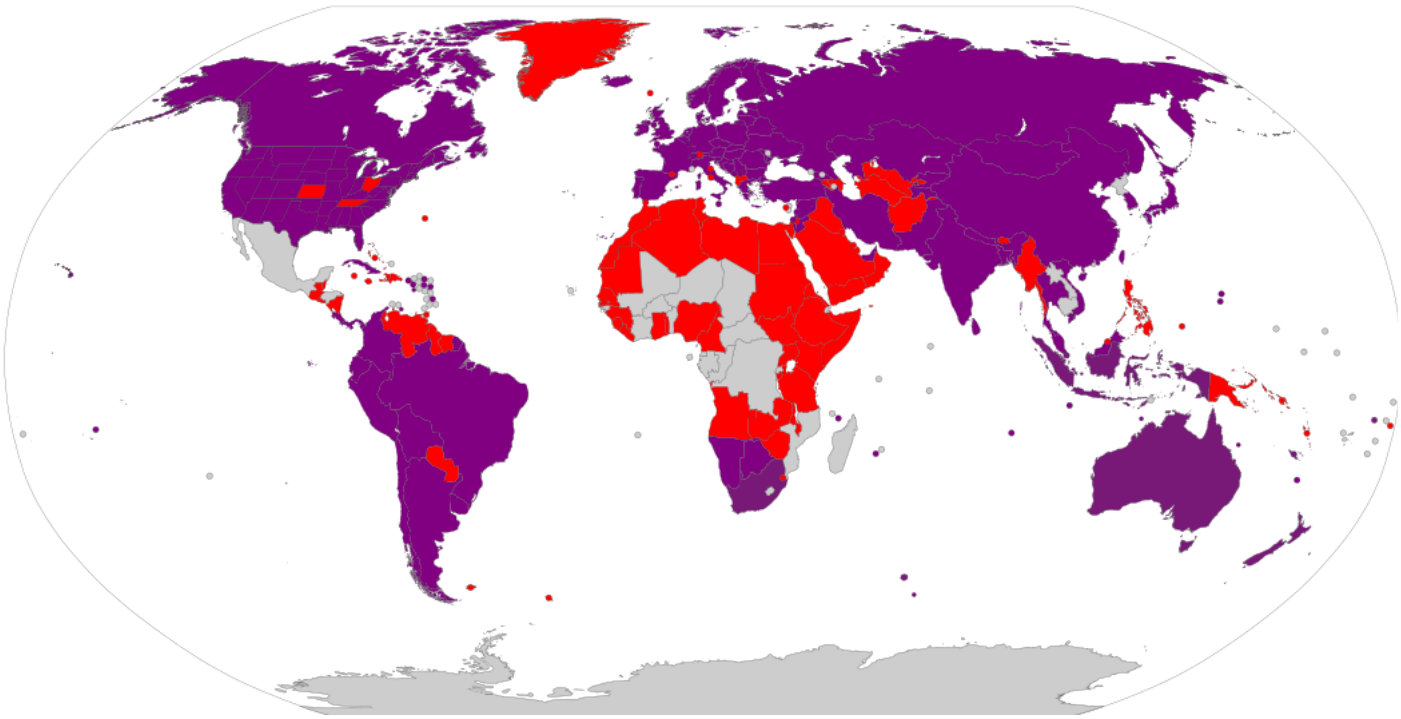
[1]No restriction in Israel, Belgium and the United States of America if last MSM activity was before 1977.

## Blood donation policies for female sex partners of men who have sex with men by country or territory

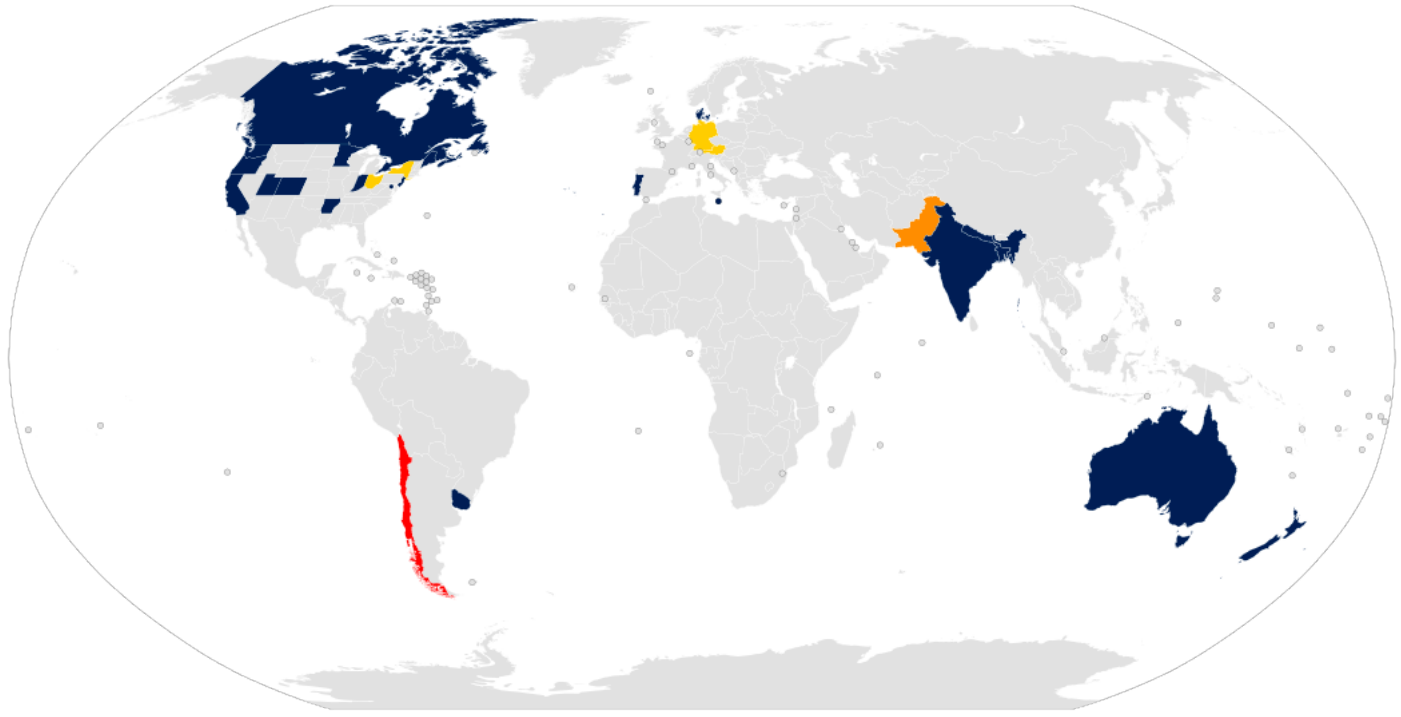


Female sex partners of men who have sex with men may donate blood; No deferral
Female sex partners of men who have sex with men may donate blood; Temporary deferral
Female sex partners of men who have sex with men may not donate blood; Permanent deferral
No Data

## Laws concerning gender identity-expression by country or territory




**Legal recognition of non-binary genders and third gender**


Nonbinary / third gender available as voluntary opt-in
Opt-in for intersex people only
Mandatory for some born intersex, and opt in
Mandatory for some born intersex
Nonbinary / third gender not legally recognized / no data

## Timeline

Decriminalization of homosexuality timeline

| | Countries/Territories/States |
|---|---|
| Never been illegal | **List** |
| 18th century | **List** |
| 19th century | **List** |
| 20th century | **List** |
| 21st century | **List** |
| | **Notes** |

# LGBT-related laws by country or territory

## Africa

**List of countries or territories by LGBT rights in Africa**

This table:

**Northern Africa**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Algeria | ✗ Illegal since 1966<br>Penalty: Fine and up to 2 years imprisonment.[48][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Canary Islands (Autonomous community of Spain) | ✓ Legal since 1979 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto unions legal since 2003[50] | ✓ Legal since 2005[51] | ✓ Legal since 2005[52][53] | ✓ Spain responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Since 2007, all documents can be amended to the recognised gender[55] |
| Ceuta (Autonomous city of Spain) | ✓ Legal since 1979 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto union since 1998[56] | ✓ Legal since 2005[57] | ✓ Legal since 2005[58] | ✓ Spain responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Since 2007, all documents can be amended to the recognised gender[55] |
| Egypt | ✓/✗ Male *de jure* legal, but *de facto* illegal since 2000<br>Penalty: Up to 17 years imprisonment with or without hard labour and with or without fines under broadly-written morality laws.<br>? Female uncertain.[48][60] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Libya | ✗ Illegal since 1953[61] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Madeira (Autonomous region of Portugal) | ✓ Legal since 1983 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto union since 2001[62][63] | ✓ Legal since 2010[64] | ✓ Legal since 2016[65][66][67] | ✓ Portugal responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination.[54] | ✓ Since 2011, all documents can be amended to the recognised gender[68] |
| Melilla (Autonomous city of Spain) | ✓ Legal since 1979 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto union since 2008[69] | ✓ Legal since 2005[57] | ✓ Legal since 2005[58] | ✓ Spain responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Since 2007, all documents can be amended to the recognised gender[55] |
| Morocco (including Southern Provinces) | ✗ Illegal since 1962<br>Penalty: Up to 3 years imprisonment.[48][70] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Disputed territory; excluding Southern Provinces) | ✗ Illegal since 1944 (as part of the Overseas Province of Spanish Sahara)<br>Penalty: Up to 3 years imprisonment.[48][71][72] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| South Sudan | ✗ Illegal since 1899 (as Anglo-Egyptian Sudan)<br>Penalty: Up to 10 years imprisonment.[48][49] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2011 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Sudan | ☠ ✗ Illegal since 1899 (as Anglo-Egyptian | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Sudan)<br>Penalty: Death penalty on third offense for men and on fourth offense for women.[48] | | | | | | |
| Tunisia | ✗ Illegal since 1913 (as the French protectorate of Tunisia)<br>Penalty: 3 years imprisonment.[48][73]<br>Legalization proposed[74] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |

**Western Africa**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Benin | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country);[48][75]<br>Age of consent discrepancy[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Burkina Faso | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1991 | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Cape Verde | ✓ Legal since 2004 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[48] | ? |
| Gambia | ✗ Illegal since 1888 (as the Gambia Colony and Protectorate)<br>Penalty: Up to life imprisonment.[48][76][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Ghana | ✗ Male illegal since 1860s (as the Gold Coast)<br>Penalty: 10 years imprisonment or more.<br>✓ Female always legal[48][77][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Guinea | ✗ Illegal since 1988<br>Penalty: 6 months to 3 years imprisonment.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Guinea-Bissau | ✓ Legal since 1993[48] + UN decl. sign. | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Ivory Coast | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country);<br>Age of consent discrepancy[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Liberia | ✗ Illegal since 1976<br>Penalty: 1 year imprisonment.[48][78] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Mali | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Mauritania | ☠ ✗ Illegal since 1983<br>Penalty: Death by stoning.[48][79] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Niger | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country);<br>Age of consent discrepancy[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Nigeria | ✗ Illegal under federal law since 1901 (as the Northern Nigeria Protectorate and the Southern Nigeria Protectorate)<br>Penalty: Up to 14 years imprisonment.☠<br>Death in the states of | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto, Yobe, and Zamfara.[48][80][49] | | | | | | |
| Senegal | ✗ Illegal since 1966<br>Penalty: 1 to 5 years imprisonment![48][81] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Sierra Leone | ✗ Male illegal since 1861 (as the Sierra Leone Colony and Protectorate)<br>Penalty: Up to life imprisonment (Not enforced).<br>✓ Female always legal + UN decl. sign![48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Togo | ✗ Illegal since 1884 (as Togoland)<br>Penalty: Fine and 3 years imprisonment![48][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |

**Central Africa**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cameroon | ✗ Illegal since 1972<br>Penalty: Fines to 5 years imprisonment![48][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Central African Republic | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)<br>+ UN decl. sign![48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2016[82] | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Chad | ✗ Illegal since 2017<br>Penalty: 3 months to 2 years imprisonment. | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2005 | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Equatorial Guinea | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Gabon | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)<br>+ UN decl. sign. | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Republic of the Congo | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country);<br>Age of consent discrepancy[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001<br>+ UN decl. sign![48] | ✓ Legal since 2017 | ✓ Legal since 2017[83][84] | ✓ Legal since 2017 | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay on discrimination | ? |
| São Tomé and Príncipe | ✓ Legal since 2012<br>+ UN decl. sign![48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |

**Southeast Africa**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burundi | ✗ Illegal since 2009 | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Penalty: 3 months to 2 years imprisonment.[48][85] | | ban since 2005 | | | | |
| Kenya | ✗ Illegal since 1897 (as the East Africa Protectorate) Penalty: up to 14 years imprisonment.[48][49] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2010[86] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Rwanda | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)[48] + UN decl. sign. | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2003 | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Tanzania | ✗ Illegal since 1864 (only Zanzibar) Illegal since 1899 Penalty: Up to life imprisonment.[48][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Uganda | ✗ Male illegal since 1894 Penalty: Up to life imprisonment.[87][87] ? Female uncertain | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2005 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

**Horn of Africa**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Djibouti | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Eritrea | ✗ Illegal since 1957 (as part of the Federation of Ethiopia and Eritrea) Penalty: Up to 3 years imprisonment.[48][88] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Ethiopia | ✗ Illegal Penalty: 10 years imprisonment or more.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Somalia | ☠ ✗ Illegal since 1962 Penalty: Up to death.[89] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Somaliland (Disputed territory) | ☠ ✗ Illegal Penalty: Up to death.[89] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

**Indian Ocean states**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Comoros | ✗ Illegal since 1982 Penalty: 5 years imprisonment and fines.[48][90] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| French Southern and Antarctic Lands (Overseas territory of France) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the territory)[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Under French law |
| Madagascar | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country); Age of consent discrepancy[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Mauritius | ✗ Male illegal since 1838 (as part of British | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[93][94] | ? |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Mauritius)<br>Penalty: Up to 5 years imprisonment.<br>✓ Female always legal[91]<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48][92] | | | | | | |
| Mayotte (Overseas region of France) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the region)[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Under French law |
| Réunion (Overseas region of France) | ✓ Legal since 1791[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Under French law |
| Seychelles | ✓ Legal since 2016[95]<br>+ UN decl. sign. | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[48] | ? |

**Southern Africa**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Angola | ✓ Legal since 2019[96] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[97] | ? May possibly change gender under the *Código do Registro Civil 2015*[98] |
| Botswana | ✗ Illegal since 1885 (as part of the Bechuanaland Protectorate)<br>Penalty: Fine to up to 7 years imprisonment (Not enforced).[48][49]<br>Legalization pending[99] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Legal gender change recognized as a constitutional right since 2017[100] |
| Eswatini | ✗ Male illegal since the 1880s<br>✓ Female always legal[48][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Lesotho | ✓ Male legal since 2012<br>Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? May possibly change gender under the *National Identity Cards Act 9 of 2011*[101] |
| Malawi | ✗ Illegal since 1891 (as part of the Shire Highlands Protectorate and the Nyasaland Districts Protectorate)<br>Penalty: Up to 14 years imprisonment and whippings (Law suspended from usage since 2012).[48][102][49] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Mozambique | ✓ Legal since 2015[103][104] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[48][93] | ? |
| Namibia | ✗ Male illegal since 1920 (as part of South-West Africa)[49]<br>✓ Female always legal[48][105][106] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✓ Under the *Births, Marriages and Deaths Registration Act 81 of 1963*[107] |
| South Africa | ✓ Male legal since 1998<br>Female always legal<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Limited recognition of unregistered partnerships since 1998; same-sex marriage since 2006 | ✓ Legal since 2006 | ✓ Legal since 2002 | ✓ Since 1998 | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Anti-discrimination laws are interpreted to include gender identity; legal gender may be changed after surgical or medical treatment |
| Zambia | ✗ Illegal since 1911 (as part of the British South Africa Company rule of Rhodesia)<br>Penalty: up to 14 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | years imprisonment.[48][49] | | | | | | |
| Zimbabwe | ✗ Male illegal since 1891 (as part of the British South Africa Company rule of Rhodesia)<br>✓ Female legal[48][49] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2013 | ✗ | | ✗ | ✗ |

## Americas

**List of countries or territories by LGBT rights in the Americas**

Tables:

**North America**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bermuda (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 1994;<br>Age of consent discrepancy<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Domestic partnerships since 2018[108] | ✓ Legal since November 2018 and between May 2017 and May 2018 | ✓ Legal since 2015[109] | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[110] | ✗ |
| Canada | ✓ Legal since 1969<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48][111] | ✓ Domestic partnerships in Nova Scotia (2001);[112] Civil unions in Quebec (2002);[113] Adult interdependent relationships in Alberta (2003);[114] Common-law relationships in Manitoba (2004)[115] | ✓ Legal in some provinces and territories since 2003, nationwide since 2005[116] | ✓ Legal in some provinces and territories since 1996, nationwide since 2010[117] | ✓ Since 1992[118] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination. Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation by mental health professionals illegal in Manitoba, Ontario and Vancouver | ✓ Transgender people can change their gender and name without completion of medical intervention and human rights protections explicitly include gender identity or expression within all of Canada since 2017[119][120][121][122] |
| Greenland (autonomous constituent country of the Kingdom of Denmark) | ✓ Legal since 1933<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since 1996[123] | ✓ Legal since 2016 | ✓ Stepchild adoption since 2009;[124] joint adoption since 2016[125] | ✓ Since 1978 (Denmark responsible for defense) | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[48] | ✗ |
| Mexico | ✓ Legal since 1871<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓/✗ Civil unions in Mexico City (2007), Coahuila (2007),[126] Colima (2013),[127] Campeche (2013),[128] Jalisco (2014),[129] Michoacán (2015) and Tlaxcala (2017) | ✓/✗ Legal in Mexico City (2010),[130] Quintana Roo (2012),[131] Coahuila (2014), Chihuahua (2015), Nayarit (2015), Jalisco (2016), Campeche (2016), Michoacán (2016), Colima (2016), Morelos (2016), Chiapas (2017), Puebla (2017), Baja California (2017) and Nuevo León (2019).<br>All states are obliged to honour same-sex marriages performed in states where it is legal.[130][132][133]<br>The Supreme Court has declared that it is unconstitutional to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples in all states,[134] but as state laws were not invalidated, individual | ✓/✗ Legal in Mexico City (2010),[137] Coahuila (2014), Chihuahua (2015), Michoacán (2016), Colima (2016), Morelos (2016), Campeche (2016), Veracruz (2016), Baja California (2017), Querétaro (2017), Chiapas (2017) and Puebla (2017)[138][139] | | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[140] | ✓/✗ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name in Mexico City (2008),[141] Michoacán (2017), Nayarit (2017) and Coahuila (2018)[142] |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | injunctions must still be obtained from the courts[135][136] | | | | |
| Saint Pierre and Miquelon (Overseas collectivity of France) | ✓ Legal since 1791 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999[143] | ✓ Legal since 2013[144] | ✓ Legal since 2013[145] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Under French law[146] |
| United States | ✓ Legal in some states since 1962, nationwide since 2003 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Domestic partnerships in California (1999),[147] the District of Columbia (2002),[148] Maine (2004),[149] Oregon (2008),[150] Maryland (2008),[151] and Nevada (2009);[152] Civil unions in New Jersey (2007),[153] Illinois (2011),[154] Hawaii (2012),[155] and Colorado (2013)[156] | ✓ Legal in some states since 2004, nationwide since 2015[157] | ✓ Legal in some states since 1993, nationwide since 2016[158] | ✓ "Don't ask, don't tell" policy was abolished in 2011, meaning that since then LGB people have been allowed to serve openly in the military.[159] Transgender people have been allowed to serve in the military since 2018[160][161][162] | ✓/✗ Federal executive order prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation for employees in the federal civilian workforce, along with government employment in the District of Columbia, and the United States Postal Service, since 1998 (see Executive Order 12968 and Executive Order 13087). Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation with minors by mental health professionals illegal in some states. Included in the federal hate crime law since 2009. Sexual orientation discrimination banned in public and private employment in 24 states + D.C. | ✓/✗ Gender identity discrimination in healthcare insurance banned since 2012.[163][164] Allowed to change gender under various conditions in 47 states + D.C. Included in the federal hate crime law since 2009. Gender identity discrimination banned in public and private employment in 23 states + D.C. |

**Central America**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belize | ✓ Legal since 2016[165] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[166][167][168] | ✗[169] |
| Costa Rica | ✓ Legal since 1971 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Unregistered cohabitation since 2014[170][171] | ✗/✓ To become legal by 2020 at the latest | ✗ Pending[172] | Has no military | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[48] | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender without surgeries or judicial permission since 2018[173] |
| El Salvador | ✓ Legal since 1822 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban pending;[174] court decision pending | ✗ | ✓[175][176] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[175] | ✗[177] |
| Guatemala | ✓ Legal since 1871 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Pending | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✗[178] |
| Honduras | ✓ Legal since 1899 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2005;[179][180] court decision pending | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[181] | ? |
| Nicaragua | ✓ Legal since 2008 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[48] | ✗ |
| Panama | ✓ Legal since 2008 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Court decision pending | ✗ Court decision pending | ✗ | Has no military | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[182][183] | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name after completion of medical intervention since 2006[184][185] |

**Caribbean**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual | Recognition of | Same-sex | Adoption by | LGB people | Anti- | Laws concerning |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

| | activity | same-sex unions | marriage | same-sex couples | allowed to serve openly in military | discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Anguilla (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✗ | ✗ |
| Antigua and Barbuda | ✗ Illegal Penalty: 15-year prison sentence (Not enforced).[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Aruba (Constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since 2016[186] | ✗/✓ Same-sex marriages performed in the Netherlands recognized[187] | ✗ | ✓ The Netherlands responsible for defence | ✗ | ✗ |
| Bahamas | ✓ Legal since 1991; Age of consent discrepancy + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓[48] | ✗ | ✗ |
| Barbados | ✗ Illegal Penalty: Life imprisonment (Not enforced).[48] Legalization proposed | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| British Virgin Islands (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[188] | ✗ |
| Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius; special municipalities of the Netherlands) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the municipalities) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓[189] | ✓ Legal since 2012[190] | ✓[191] | ✓ The Netherlands responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[192] | ✓[193] |
| Cayman Islands (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001; Age of consent discrepancy[48] + UN decl. sign. | ✗/✓ Same-sex couples recognized for immigration purposed since 2016 | ✗ Court decision pending[194] | ✗ | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✗ | ✗ |
| Cuba | ✓ Legal since 1979 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ legalization pending [195] | ✗ | ✓[48][196] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination [197][198][199] | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change gender after sex change operations[200] |
| Curaçao (Constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Pending | ✗/✓ Same-sex marriages performed in the Netherlands recognized[187] | ✗ | ✓ The Netherlands responsible for defence | ✗ | ✗ |
| Dominica | ✗ Illegal Penalty: 10-year prison sentence or incarceration in a psychiatric institution (Not enforced). + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Dominican Republic | ✓ Legal since 1822 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2010[201] | ✗ | ✗[202] | ✗ | ✗ |
| Grenada | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: 10-year prison sentence (Not enforced). ✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ✗ |
| Guadeloupe (Overseas department of France) | ✓ Legal since 1791 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999[143] | ✓ Legal since 2013[144] | ✓ Legal since 2013[145] | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Under French law[146] |
| Haiti | ✓ Legal since 1791 (as Saint- | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ✗ |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Domingue)[48] | | | | | | |
| Jamaica | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: 10 years hard labor (Not enforced). ✓ Female always legal.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1962 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Martinique (Overseas department of France) | ✓ Legal since 1791 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999[143] | ✓ Legal since 2013[144] | ✓ Legal since 2013[145] | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Under French law[146] |
| Montserrat (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2010[203] | ✗ | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[204] | ✗ |
| Puerto Rico (Commonwealth of the United States) | ✓ Legal since 2003 | ✓ Since 2015 | ✓ Legal since 2015[205] | ✓ Legal since 2015 | ✓ United States responsible for defense[159][162] | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Gender change legal since 2018; does not require surgery |
| Saint Barthélemy (Overseas collectivity of France) | ✓ Legal since 1791 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999[143] | ✓ Legal since 2013[144] | ✓ Legal since 2013[145] | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Under French law[146] |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: 10 years (Not enforced). ✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Saint Lucia | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: Fine and/or 10-year prison sentence (Not enforced). ✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ✗ |
| Saint Martin (Overseas collectivity of France) | ✓ Legal since 1791 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999[143] | ✓ Legal since 2013[144] | ✓ Legal since 2013[145] | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Under French law[146] |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | ✗ Illegal Penalty: Fine and/or 10-year prison sentence (Not enforced)[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ✗ |
| Sint Maarten (Constituent country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity have ever existed in the country) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗/✓ Same-sex marriages performed in the Netherlands recognized[187] | ✗ | ✓ The Netherlands responsible for defence | ✗ | ✗ |
| Trinidad and Tobago | ✓ Legal since 2018[206] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Turks and Caicos Islands (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2011[207] | ✗ | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[48] | ✗ |
| United States Virgin Islands (Territory of the United States) | ✓ Legal since 1985 | ✓ Since 2015[158] | ✓ Legal since 2015[158] | ✓ Legal since 2015[158] | ✓ United States responsible for defense[159][162] | ✗ | ✗ |

**South America**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina | ✓ Legal since 1853 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil unions in Buenos Aires (2003),[208] Río Negro Province (2003),[209] Villa Carlos Paz (2007) and Río Cuarto (2009) Cohabitation unions nationwide since 2015[210] | ✓ Legal since 2010[211] | ✓ Legal since 2010 | ✓ Since 2009[212] | ✓/✗ Legal protection in some cities;[213] pending nationwide. Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation by mental health professionals illegal since 2010 | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name without surgeries or judicial order since 2012[214] |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bolivia | ✓ Legal since 1832 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Constitutional ban on *free unions* since 2009;[215] Family life agreement pending[216] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2009[217] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[218] | ✓ Since 2015[219][220][221] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[48] | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name without surgeries or judicial order since 2016[222][223][224][225] |
| Brazil | ✓ Legal since 1831 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ "Stable unions" legal in some states since 2004; all rights as recognized family entities available nationwide since 2011[226][227] | ✓ Legal in some states since 2012, nationwide since 2013[228][229] | ✓ Legal since 2010[230] | ✓[231] | ✓ Banned in all Brazilian states; comprehensive nationwide anti-discrimination law pending[232] Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation by mental health professionals illegal since 1999[233][234] | ✓ Transgender people can change their legal gender and name before a notary without the need of surgeries or judicial order since 2018[235][236][237] |
| Chile | ✓ Legal since 1999; Age of consent discrepancy + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil union agreement since 2015[238] | ✗ Pending[239] | ✗ Pending[240] | ✓ Since 2012[241] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[242] | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name since 1974. No surgeries or judicial order since 2019.[243] |
| Colombia | ✓ Legal since 1981 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto marital union since 2007[244] | ✓ Legal since 2016[245] | ✓ Stepchild adoption since 2014;[246] joint adoption since 2015[247] | ✓ Since 1999[48] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[248] | ✓ Since 2015, transgender persons can change their legal gender and name manifesting their solemn will before a notar, no surgeries or judicial order required[249] |
| Ecuador | ✓ Legal since 1997 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto unions since 2009[250][251] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2009; court decision pending[252] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[253] | [254] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination.[255] Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation by mental health professionals illegal since 2014 | ✓ Since 2016, transgender persons are allowed to change their birth name and gender identity (instead of the sex assigned at birth) on legal documents; no surgeries or judicial order required[256][257][258] |
| Falkland Islands (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 1989 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships since 2017[259] | ✓ Legal since 2017[259] | ✓ Legal since 2017 | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[260] | ✗ |
| French Guiana (Overseas department of France) | ✓ Legal since 1791 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999[143] | ✓ Legal since 2013[144] | ✓ Legal since 2013[145] | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[59] | ✓ Under French law[146] |
| Guyana | ✗ Illegal Penalty: Up to life imprisonment (Not enforced).[48] | ✗ | ✗ | [261] | ✓[262] | ✗ | ✗ |
| Paraguay | ✓ Legal since 1880; Age of consent discrepancy + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1992[263] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1992; court decision pending[264] | ✗ | ✓[265] | ✗ Proposed[266] | ✗ |
| Peru | ✓ Legal since 1924 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Pending[267] | ✗ Court decision pending | ✗ | ✓ Since 2009[268] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[269][270][271][272][273] | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name without the need for the completion of medical intervention since 2016. Judicial order required.[274][275] |
| South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001 + UN decl. sign. | ✓ Legal since 2014[276] | ✓ Legal since 2014[276] | | ✓ UK responsible for defence | | ✗ |
| Suriname | ✓ Legal since 1869 (as Dutch Guiana); Age of consent | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[277] | ✗ Court decision pending[278][279] |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | discrepancy + UN decl. | | | | | | |
| Uruguay | ✓ Legal since 1934 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Concubinage union since 2008[280] | ✓ Legal since 2013[281] | ✓ Legal since 2009[282] | ✓ Since 2009[283] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination.[284] Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation by mental health professionals illegal since 2017 | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name without undergoing surgery since 2009. Judicial order required.[285] Self-determination since 2018. |
| Venezuela | ✓ Legal since 1997 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Proposed | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1999; court decision pending[286] | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[48] | ✗ |

## Asia

### List of countries or territories by LGBT rights in Asia

This table:

**Central Asia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | ☠ ✗ Illegal Penalty: Long imprisonment or death penalty (No known cases of death sentences have been handed out for same-sex sexual activity after the end of Taliban rule).[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Kyrgyzstan | ✓ Legal since 1998[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2016[287] | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✓ Requires sex reassignment surgery[288][289] |
| Tajikistan | ✓ Legal since 1998[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✓ Requires sex reassignment surgery[290][289] |
| Turkmenistan | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: up to 2 years imprisonment. ✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Uzbekistan | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: up to 3 years imprisonment. ✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |

**Eurasia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abkhazia (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal after 1991 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Akrotiri and Dhekelia (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2000 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships since 2005 | ✓ Legal since 2014 | ? | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[291] | ? |
| Armenia | ✓ Legal since 2003 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗/✓ Constitutional ban since 2015;[292][293] same-sex marriages performed abroad recognized since 2017[294] | ✗ | ✗[295] | ✗ | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Artsakh (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal since 2000 | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2006[296] | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Azerbaijan | ✓ Legal since 2000[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Cyprus | ✓ Legal since 1998 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil unions since 2015 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[297] | ✗ |
| Georgia | ✓ Legal since 2000 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban passed but yet to take effect | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[298] | ✓ Requires sterilization and sex reassignment surgery for change[299] |
| Kazakhstan | ✓ Legal since 1998[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗[300] | ✗ | ✓ Requires sex reassignment surgry, sterilization, hormone therapy and medical examinations[289] |
| Northern Cyprus (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal since 2014[301][302][48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[301][302] | ? |
| Russia | ✓ Male legal since 1993 Female always legal[303][48] ✗ Illegal in practice in Chechnya, where homosexuals are abducted and sent to concentration camps based on their perceived sexual orientation. See Gay concentration camps in Chechnya for more information. | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban proposed[304] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Requires sterilization and sex reassignment surgery for change[299] |
| South Ossetia (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal after 1991 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Turkey | ✓ Legal since 1858[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ Proposed[305] | ✗ Proposed[305] | ✓ Requires sterilisation and sex reassignment surgery for change[306] |

**West Asia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bahrain | ✓ Legal since 1976[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Iran | ☠ ✗ Illegal Penalty: 74 lashes for immature men and death penalty for mature men (although there are recorded cases of minors who were executed because of their sexual orientation).[307] For women, 50 lashes for women of mature sound mind and if consenting. Death penalty offense after fourth conviction.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Legal gender recognition legal if accompanied by a medical intervention[308] |
| Iraq | ✓ Legal since 2003[309] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Israel | ✓ Legal since 1963 (de facto), 1988 (de jure)[310] + UN decl. sign.[48][311] | ✓ Unregistered cohabitation since 1994. | ✗/✓ Foreign same-sex marriages are recognized and recorded in the population registry | ✓ Since 2008[312] | ✓ Since 1993 | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[313][314][315] | ✓ Full recognition of gender's ID without a surgery or medical intervention[316] equal employment opportunity law bars discrimination based on gender identity[317][318][317][319] |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jordan | ✓ Legal since 1951[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✓ Allowed since 2014[320] |
| Kuwait | ✗ Male illegal<br>Penalty: Fines or up to 6-year prison sentence.<br>✓ Female always legal[48][321] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Lebanon | ✗ Illegal under Article 534 of the Penal Code. Some judges have ruled not to prosecute individuals based on the law, however, this has not been settled by the Supreme Court and thus homosexuality is still illegal.[322] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Legal gender change allowed, but sex reassignment surgery required[323] |
| Oman | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: Fines and prison sentence up to 3 years (Only enforced when dealing with "public scandal").[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Palestine (Disputed territory) | West Bank:<br>✓ Legal since 1951 (As part of Jordan)[48]<br>Gaza:<br>✗ Male illegal<br>Penalty: Up to 10 years imprisonment.<br>✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✗ |
| Qatar | ☠ ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: Fines, up to 7 years imprisonment,[48] or death penalty.[324] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Saudi Arabia | ☠ ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: Prison sentences of several months to life, fines and/or whipping/flogging, castration, torture or death can be sentenced on first conviction. A second conviction merits execution.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Syria | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: Up to 3 years imprisonment (Law *de facto* suspended)[325][48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender |
| United Arab Emirates | ☠ ✗ Illegal under federal law<br>Penalty: deportation, fines, prison sentences or death penalty.[324]<br>Illegal in the emirate of Dubai<br>Penalty: Up to 14 years imprisonment.<br>Illegal in the emirate of Abu Dhabi<br>Penalty: Up to 10 years imprisonment.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗/✓ Sex reassignment surgery legal, but only for intersex people[326][327][328] |
| Yemen | ☠ ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: Unmarried men punished with 100 lashes of the whip or a maximum of one year of | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | imprisonment, married men with death by stoning. Women punished up to three years of imprisonment; where the offense has been committed under duress, the punishment is up to seven years detention.[48] | | | | | | |

**South Asia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: 10 years to life imprisonment[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ A third gender option (*hijra*) besides male and female is available[329] |
| Bhutan | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: Prison sentence up to 1 year (Not enforced).[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| British Indian Ocean Territory (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001 + UN decl. sign[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships since 2005 | ✓ Legal since 2014 | ? | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ? | ? |
| India | ✓ Legal since 2018[330] | Proposed ✗ | ✗ Proposed | ✗ Proposed | ✗[331] | ✗[332] | ✓ A third gender option (*hijra*) besides male and female is available; transgender people have a constitutional right to change gender[333] |
| Maldives | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: For men, the punishment is banishment for nine months to one year or a whipping of 10 to 30 strokes. For women, it is house arrest for nine months to one year[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Nepal | ✓ Legal since 2007 + UN decl. sign[48] | ✗ Proposed | ✗ Proposed | ✗ Proposed | ✓ Since 2007 | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Gender change legal since 2007[334] |
| Pakistan | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: 2 years to life sentence (Not enforced).[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Right to change gender; transgender and intersex citizens have legal protections from **all** discrimination and harassment[335] |
| Sri Lanka | ? At least ruled unenforcable by the Supreme Court, various outlets report it as decriminalized under the Sri Lankan legal system.[336]<br>[337] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓[338][339] | ✓ Transgender persons can change their legal gender and name after completion of medical intervention[340][341] |

**East Asia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of relationships | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| China, People's Republic of | ✓ Legal since 1997[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender, but only after sex |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | reassignment surgery |
| Hong Kong (Special administrative region of China) | ✓ Legal since 1991[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[342] | China responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender, but only after sex reassignment surgery |
| Japan | ✓ Legal since 1880 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗/✓ No nationwide protections, but some cities ban some anti-gay discrimination[48] | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender, but only after sex reassignment surgery |
| Macau (Special administrative region of China) | ✓ Legal since 1996 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | China responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | |
| Mongolia | ✓ Legal since 1961 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender |
| North Korea | (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | ✗ | Unknown, although there are heavily obeyed gender roles for both male and female. See also: "Let's trim our hair in accordance with the socialist lifestyle" |
| South Korea | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the country) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗/✓ Protection from discrimination varies by jurisdiction in some areas, including Seoul | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender |
| Taiwan | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the country)[343] | ✗/✓ Partnerships recognized in 18 out of 22 jurisdictions[344] | ✗/✓ To be legal by May 24, 2019[345][346] | ✗ Pending | ✓ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination (in work and education) | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender[347] |

**Southeast Asia**

| LGBT rights in | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of relationships | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brunei | ✗ Illegal Penalty: Fines and imprisonment up to 10 years or death by stoning.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Cambodia | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗/✓ Partnerships recognized in certain cities | ✗ There has been at least one recorded case of a legally registered and recognized same-sex marriage; constitutional ban | ✗/✓ Officially banned, but numerous same-sex adoptions have taken place | | ✗ | |
| East Timor | ✓ Legal since 1975 + UN decl. sign[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | ✗ | |
| Indonesia | ✓ Legal nationwide, except; ✗ Illegal in the provinces of Aceh, South Sumatra, and the city of Palembang (Applies only to Muslims);[348][349][48] Age of consent discrepancy | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗[350] | ✗ | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender, but only after sex reassignment surgery |
| Laos | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the country)[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | ✗ | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Malaysia | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: fines, prison sentence (2-20 years), or whippings.[48][351] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ A 2016 court ruling recognizes gender changes as fundamental constitutional rights[352] |
| Myanmar | ✗ Illegal<br>Penalty: Up to life sentence (Not enforced).[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Philippines | ✓ Legal<br>(No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the country)[353][48][354] | ✗ Pending[353] | ✗ Pending[355] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[356] | ✓ Since 2009 | ✗/✓ In certain cities and provinces,[357] including Cebu City,[358] Quezon City, and Davao City;[359][360] National bill pending | ✗[361] |
| Singapore | ✗ Male illegal<br>Penalty: up to 2 years prison sentence (Not enforced since 1999); Court decision pending.<br>✓ Female legal since 2007[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗/✓ Due to conscription, but gays are not allowed to go to command school or serve in sensitive units | ✗ | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change legal gender, but only after sex reassignment surgery |
| Thailand | ✓ Legal since 1956<br>+ UN decl. sign![48] | ✗ Pending[362] | ✗ | ✗ Pending[363] | ✓ Since 2005 | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change gender.[364][365] Anti-discrimination protections for gender expression.[351] |
| Vietnam | ✓ Legal<br>(No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the country)[48]<br>+ UN decl. sign![48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ✓ Gender changes recognized and officially practised since 2017;[366][367] previously, gender changes were only allowed for persons of congenital sex defects and unidentifiable sex |

## Europe

**List of countries or territories by LGBT rights in Europe**

Tables:

**European Union**

*Main article: LGBT rights in the European Union*

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| European Union | ✓ Legal in **all** 28 member states[368] | ✓/✗ Legal in 22/28 member states | ✓/✗ Legal in 14/28 member states | ✓/✗ Stepchild adoption legal in 18/28 member states;<br>joint adoption legal in 13/28 member states | ✓/✗ Legal in 27/28 member states | ✓ Membership requires a state to ban anti-gay discrimination in employment.<br>3/28 states ban some anti-gay discrimination.<br>25/28 states ban **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓/✗ Legal in 27/28 member states[369] |

**Central Europe**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Austria | ✓ Legal since 1971[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since | ✓ Legal since 2019[371] | ✓ Stepchild adoption since | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Transgender people allowed to |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | + UN decl. sign. | 2010[370] | | 2013; joint adoption since 2016[372][373][374] | | | change gender without undergoing surgery[299] |
| Croatia | ✓ Legal since 1977 (As part of Yugoslavia) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Life partnerships since 2014[375] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2013[376] | ✗/✓ Partner-guardianship since 2014 (parental responsibility and a permanent next-of-kins relationship between a life partner and their partner's child which is registered in the child's birth certificate) | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54][377] | ✓ *Act on the elimination of discrimination* bans **all** discrimination based on both gender identity and gender expression. Gender change is regulated by special policy issued by Ministry of Health.[378] |
| Czech Republic | ✓ Legal since 1962 (As part of Czechoslovakia) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since 2006[379] | ✗ Pending[380] | ✗ LGBT individuals in a registered partnership may adopt;[381] stepchild adoption pending[382] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Legal recognition after sex reassignment surgery (with mandatory sterilisation)[383] |
| Germany | ✓ Legal in East Germany since 1968 Legal in West Germany since 1969 + UN decl. sign.[48][384] | ✓ Registered life partnerships from 2001 to 2017 (existing partnerships and new foreign partnerships still recognised)[385][386] | ✓ Legal since 2017[387] | ✓ Stepchild adoption since 2005; joint adoption legal since 2017[387] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[388][389] | ✓ Gender change is legal; surgery not required[390] |
| Hungary | ✓ Legal since 1962 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since 2009[391] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2012[392][393][394][395] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[393] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change gender without undergoing surgery[383] |
| Liechtenstein | ✓ Legal since 1989 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since 2011[396] | ✗ | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[397] | Has no military | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✗ Gender change is not legal[383] |
| Poland | ✓ Legal + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓/✗ Unregistered cohabitation since 2012; registered partnership proposed 2018 | ✗ | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[398] | ✓ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change gender but require undergoing medical treatment such as HRT or surgery. No provisions for nonbinary people. |
| Slovakia | ✓ Legal since 1962 (As part of Czechoslovakia) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗/✓ Limited residency rights for married same-sex couples since 2018; registered partnerships pending[399] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2014[400] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[401] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[402][403] | ✓ Requires sterilisation for change[383] |
| Slovenia | ✓ Legal since 1977 (As part of Yugoslavia) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since 2006[404]; Unregistered cohabitation since 2017[405] | ✗ | ✗/✓ Stepchild adoption since 2011[406] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Gender change is legal[407] |
| Switzerland | ✓ Legal nationwide since 1942 Legal in the cantons of Geneva (as part of France), Ticino, Valais, and Vaud since 1798 + UN decl. sign.[48][408] | ✓ Registered partnerships in Geneva (2001);[409] Zürich (2003),[410] Neuchâtel (2004)[411] and Fribourg (2005)[411] Nationwide since 2007[412] | ✗ (Pending)[413] | ✗/✓ Stepchild adoption since 2018[414] | ✓ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination Banning **all** anti-gay discrimination pending[415] | ✓ Legal documents can be issued based on a person's new gender identity Sterilisation is technically required but has not been enforced since 2012. A registered partnership can become a marriage between the new opposite-sex couple.[416] |

**Eastern Europe**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abkhazia (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal after 1991 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Armenia | ✓ Legal since 2003 | ✗ | ✗/✓ Constitutional ban | ✗ | ✗[420] | ✗ | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | + UN decl. sign.[48] | | since 2015;[417][418] all marriages performed abroad recognized since 2017[419] | | | | |
| Artsakh (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal since 2000 | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2006[421] | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Azerbaijan | ✓ Legal since 2000[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Belarus | ✓ Legal since 1994[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1994[422] | ✗ | ✗/✓ Banned from military service during peacetime, but during wartime homosexuals are permitted to enlist as partially able[423] | ✗ | ✓ |
| Georgia | ✓ Legal since 2000 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban yet to take effect | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[424] | ✓ Requires sterilisation and surgery for change[383] |
| Kazakhstan | ✓ Legal since 1998[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓[289] |
| Moldova | ✓ Legal since 1995 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1994[425] | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ No longer requires sterilisation or surgery for change since 2017[383] |
| Romania | ✓ Legal since 1996 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗/✓ Limited residency rights for married same-sex couples since 2018;[426] civil partnerships proposed[427] | ✗ Constitutional ban rejected | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[428] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Legal recognition after sex reassignment surgery (sterilisation mandatory)[383] |
| Russia | ✓ Male legal since 1993 Female always legal[429][48] ✗ Illegal in practice in Chechnya, where homosexuals are abducted and sent to concentration camps based on their perceived sexual orientation. See Gay concentration camps in Chechnya for more information. | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban proposed[430] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ No longer requires sterilisation or surgery for change since 2018[383] |
| South Ossetia (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal after 1991 | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? |
| Transnistria (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal since 2002[431] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✗ Proposed[432] | ? |
| Ukraine | ✓ Legal since 1991 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1996[433] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[434] | ✓[435] | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[436] | ✓ No longer requires sterilisation or surgery for change since 2016 |

**Northern Europe**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denmark | ✓ Legal since 1933 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships from 1989 to 2012 (existing partnerships are still recognised)[437] | ✓ Legal since 2012[438][439] | ✓ Stepchild adoption since 1999; joint adoption since 2010[440][441] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Legal gender change and recognition possible without surgery or hormone therapy[442] |
| Estonia | ✓ Legal since 1992 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Cohabitation agreement since 2016[443] | ✓/✗ Marriage performed abroad recognized since 2016[444] | ✓/✗ Stepchild adoption since 2016; couples where both partners are infertile may also jointly adopt non- | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Gender reassignment legal; surgery not required[383] |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | biological children since 2016 | | | |
| Faroe Islands (Constituent country of the Kingdom of Denmark) | ✓ Legal since 1933 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ | ✓ Legal since 2017[445][446] | ✓ Legal since 2017 | ✓ Denmark responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[447][448] | ✗[449] |
| Finland (includes Åland Islands) | ✓ Legal since 1971 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships from 2002 to 2017 (existing partnerships are still recognised)[450] | ✓ Legal since 2017[451] | ✓ Stepchild adoption since 2009; joint adoption since 2017 | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Legal change and recognition is possible only with sterilisation[452] |
| Iceland | ✓ Legal since 1940 (As part of Denmark) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered cohabitation since 2006;[453] Registered partnerships from 1996 to 2010 (existing partnerships are still recognised)[454] | ✓ Legal since 2010[455][456] | ✓ Legal since 2006[457][458] | Has no military | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Documents can be amended to the recognised gender, sterilisation not required[459][383] |
| Latvia | ✓ Legal since 1992 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2006[460] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[461] | ✓ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Documents are amended accordingly, no medical intervention required[462] |
| Lithuania | ✓ Legal since 1993 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗/✓ Limited residency rights for married same-sex couples since 2018; Cohabitation agreement pending [463] | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1992[464] | ✗ Only married couples can adopt[465] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Gender change legal; surgery required[466] |
| Norway | ✓ Legal since 1972 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships from 1993 to 2009 (existing partnerships are still recognised)[467] | ✓ Legal since 2009[468][469] | ✓ Stepchild adoption since 2002; joint adoption since 2009[470][471] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ All documents can be amended to the recognised gender[299] |
| Sweden | ✓ Legal since 1944 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships from 1995 to 2009 (existing partnerships are still recognised)[472] | ✓ Legal since 2009[473] | ✓ Legal since 2003[474][475] | ✓[476] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓[477] |

**Southern Europe**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Akrotiri and Dhekelia (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2000 + UN decl. sign.[48][478][479] | ✓ Since 2005, for members of the British Armed Forces[480] | ✓ Since 2014, for members of the British Armed Forces[481] | | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[482] | |
| Albania | ✓ Legal since 1995 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✗ No legal recognition[383] |
| Andorra | ✓ Legal since 1990 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Stable unions since 2005[483]; Civil unions since 2014[484] | ✗ | ✓ Legal since 2014[485][484][486] | Has no military | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✗ No legal recognition[383] |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | ✓ Legal since 1996 in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Republika Srpska since 1998, and in Brčko District since 2003 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Requires surgery for change[487] |
| Bulgaria | ✓ Legal since 1968 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗/✓ Limited residency rights for married same-sex couples since 2018 | ✗ Constitutional ban since 1991[488] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[489] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Requires sterilisation and surgery for change[490][491] |
| Cyprus | ✓ Legal since 1998 | ✓ Civil cohabitation since | ✗ | ✗ | ✗[493] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✗ Gender change is not legal |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | + UN decl. sign.[48] | 2015[492] | | | | | |
| Gibraltar (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 1993 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships since 2014[494] | ✓ Legal since 2016[495] | ✓ Legal since 2014 | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination; banning **all** anti-gay discrimination pending[496] | ✗ Pending[497] |
| Greece | ✓ Legal since 1951 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil unions since 2015[498] | ✗ | ✗ Same-sex couples in a civil partnership may become foster parents;[499] LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Under the *Legal Gender Recognition Act 2017*[500][501] |
| Italy | ✓ Legal since 1890 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil unions since 2016[502][503] | ✗/✓ One same-sex marriage was recognized in 2017[504] | ✓/✗ Stepchild adoption admitted by the Court of Cassation since 2016[505][506] | ✓ | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Legal recognition and documents can be amended to the recognised gender; sterilisation not required[507][508] |
| Kosovo (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal since 1994 (as part of Yugoslavia)[48] | ✗ | ✗[509] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples[510][511] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[512] | ✗ No legal recognition[383] |
| Malta | ✓ Legal since 1973 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil unions since 2014[513] | ✓ Legal since 2017 | ✓ Legal since 2014 | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation by mental health professionals illegal since 2016 | ✓ Transgender people allowed to change gender; surgery not required since 2015[514] |
| Montenegro | ✓ Legal since 1977 (As part of Yugoslavia) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Proposed | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2007[515][516] | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Requires sterilisation and surgery for change[299][383] |
| North Macedonia | ✓ Legal since 1996 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✗ |
| Northern Cyprus (Disputed territory) | ✓ Legal since 2014[301][302][48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[301][302] | ? |
| Portugal | ✓ Legal since 1983 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto unions since 2001[517][518] | ✓ Legal since 2010[519] | ✓ Legal since 2016[520][521][522] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ All documents can be amended to the recognised gender since 2011[523] |
| San Marino | ✓ Legal since 1865 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil unions since 2018 | ✗ | ✓/✗ Stepchild adoption legal since 2018 | ? | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✗ No legal recognition[299] |
| Serbia | ✓ Legal from 1858, when nominally a vassal of the Ottoman Empire to 1860,[524] and again since 1994 (As part of Yugoslavia) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2006[525] | ✗ LGBT individuals may adopt, but not same-sex couples | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Sterilisation and surgery no longer required since 2019[526] |
| Spain | ✓ Legal since 1979 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ De facto unions in Catalonia (1998),[50] Aragon (1999),[50] Navarre (2000),[50] Castile-La Mancha (2000),[50] Valencia (2001),[527] the Balearic Islands (2001),[528] Madrid (2001),[50] Asturias (2002),[529] Castile and León (2002),[530] Andalusia (2002),[50] the Canary Islands | ✓ Legal since 2005[534] | ✓ Legal since 2005[535][536] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] Pathologization or attempted treatment of sexual orientation by mental health professionals illegal in Andalusia, Madrid, Murcia and Valencia | ✓ Since 2007, all documents can be amended to the recognised gender[537] |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (2003),[50] Extremadura (2003),[50] Basque Country (2003),[50] Cantabria (2005),[531] Galicia (2008)[532] La Rioja (2010),[533] and Murcia (2018) | | | | | |
| Turkey | ✓ Legal since 1858[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ Proposed[538] | ✗ Proposed[538] | ✓ Legal since 1988, requires sterilisation and surgery for change[539] |
| Vatican City | ✓ Legal since 1890 (As part of Italy)[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ✗ |

**Western Europe**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Belgium | ✓ Legal nationwide since 1795 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Legal cohabitation since 2000[540] | ✓ Legal since 2003[541][542][543] | ✓ Legal since 2006[544][545] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Since 2018, sex changes do not require sterilisation and surgery[546] |
| France | ✓ Legal nationwide since 1791 Legal in Savoy since 1792 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 1999[547] | ✓ Legal since 2013[548] | ✓ Legal since 2013[549] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[54] | ✓ Since 2017, sex changes no longer requires sterilisation and surgery[550] |
| Guernsey (Crown dependency of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 1983 + UN decl. sign.[551][552][48] | ✗/✓ Civil partnerships performed in the UK abroad recognised for succession purposes in inheritance and other matters respecting interests in property since 2012[553][554][555] | ✓ Legal since 2017 in Guernsey and since 2018 in Alderney[556] ✗ Not legal in Sark | ✓ Legal since 2017[557] | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[558] | ✓ Legal gender changes since 2007[558][559] |
| Ireland | ✓ Male legal since 1993 Female always legal + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships from 2011 to 2015 (existing partnerships are still recognised)[560] | ✓ Legal since 2015 after a constitutional referendum[561] | ✓ Legal since 2017[562][563][564][565][566][567] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[568][569][570] | ✓ Under the *Gender Recognition Act 2015*[571] |
| Isle of Man (Crown dependency of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 1992 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships since 2011[572] | ✓ Legal since 2016[573] | ✓ Legal since 2011 | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[574] | ✓ Transgender people are allowed to change their legal gender and to have their new gender recognised as a result of the *Gender Recognition Act 2009 (c.11)*[575][576] |
| Jersey (Crown dependency of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 1990 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships since 2012[577] | ✓ Legal since 2018[578][579] | ✓ Legal since 2012 | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[580] | ✓ Under the *Gender Recognition (Jersey) Law 2010*[581] |
| Luxembourg | ✓ Legal since 1795 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Registered partnerships since 2004[582] | ✓ Legal since 2015[583][584] | ✓ Legal since 2015[585] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[586] | ✓ No divorce, sterilization and/or surgery legally required since September 2018 for change of gender[587][383] |
| Monaco | ✓ Legal since 1793 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ Pending[588] | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[48] | ? |
| Netherlands | ✓ Legal since 1811 | ✓ Registered partnership since 1998[589] | ✓ Legal since 2001[590] | ✓ Legal since 2001[591][592] | ✓ | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[593] | ✓[594] but mandatory sterilization is still |

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | + UN decl. sign.[48] | | | | | | required under Dutch law |
| United Kingdom | ✓ Male legal in England and Wales since 1967, in Scotland since 1981, and in Northern Ireland since 1982 Female always legal + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil partnerships since 2005[595] | ✓ Legal in England and Wales, and Scotland since 2014[596][596] ✗ Not performed in Northern Ireland | ✓ Legal in England and Wales since 2005, in Scotland since 2009 and Northern Ireland since 2013[597][598][599] | ✓ Since 2000 | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[600][48] but the UK Public Order Act 1986 under section 29JA "Protection of freedom of expression (sexual orientation)" still discriminates LGBT+ persons providing unfair advantages to anti-LGBT offenders[601] | ✓ Under the *Gender Recognition Act 2004* |

## Oceania

**List of countries or territories by LGBT rights in Oceania**

Tables:

**Australasia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia (including territories of Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Norfolk Island) | ✓ Legal in some states and territories since 1975, nationwide since 1997 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Unregistered cohabitation nationally since 2009; Domestic partnerships in Tasmania (2004),[602] South Australia (2007),[603] Victoria (2008),[604] New South Wales (2010),[605] and Queensland (2012);[606] Civil unions in the Australian Capital Territory (2012)[607] | ✓ Legal since 2017[608] | ✓ Legal in some states and territories since 2002, nationwide since 2018 | ✓ Since 1992[609] | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination.[610] | ✓ Under state/territory laws. The ACT, WA, NT and SA do not require sex reassignment surgery to change sex/gender on a birth certificate. However NSW, QLD, TAS and VIC do explicitly require sexual reassignment surgery to change sex/gender on a birth certificate.[611][612][610] |
| New Zealand | ✓ Legal since 1986 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Unregistered cohabitation since 2002; Civil unions since 2005 | ✓ Legal since 2013[613] | ✓ Legal since 2013[613] | ✓ Since 1993 | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Covered under the "sex discrimination" provision of the *Human Rights Act 1993* |

**Melanesia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fiji | ✓ Legal since 2010 + UN decl. sign.[614][48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[48] | ? |
| New Caledonia (Special collectivity of France) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the collectivity) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 2009[615] | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Under French law |
| Papua New Guinea | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: 3 to 14 years imprisonment (Not enforced). ✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Solomon Islands | ✗ Illegal Penalty: Up to 14 years | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗[616] | ✗ |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | imprisonment (Not enforced).[48] | | | | | | |
| Vanuatu | ✓ Legal since 2007<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ? | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✗ |

**Micronesia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Guam (Unincorporated territory of the United States) | ✓ Legal since 1978 | ✓ Since 2015 | ✓ Legal since 2015 | ✓ Legal since 2002 | ✓ United States responsible for defense[159][617] | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Allowed to change gender; require undergoing sex reassignment surgery |
| Micronesia | ✓ Legal<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination[618] | ? |
| Kiribati | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: 5-14 years imprisonment (Not enforced).<br>✓ Female legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination | ✗ |
| Marshall Islands | ✓ Legal since 2005<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ? |
| Nauru | ✓ Legal since 2016[619][620]<br>+ UN decl. sign. | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ✗ |
| Northern Mariana Islands (Unincorporated territory of the United States) | ✓ Legal since 1983 | ✓ Since 2015 | ✓ Legal since 2015 | ✓ Legal since 2015 | ✓ United States responsible for defense[159][617] | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[621][622] | ✓ Under the *Vital Statistics Act of 2006* |
| Palau | ✓ Legal since 2014<br>+ UN decl. sign.[623] | ✗ | ✗ Constitutional ban since 2008 | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ✗ |
| United States Minor Outlying Islands (Unincorporated territories of the United States) | ✓ Legal | ✓ | ✓ Legal | ✓ Legal | ✓ United States responsible for defense[159][617] | ✗ | ✗ |

**Polynesia**

| LGBT rights in: | Same-sex sexual activity | Recognition of same-sex unions | Same-sex marriage | Adoption by same-sex couples | LGB people allowed to serve openly in military? | Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation | Laws concerning gender identity/expression |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Samoa (Unincorporated territory of the United States)[624] | ✓ Legal since 1980 | ✗ | ✗[625] | ✗ | ✓ United States responsible for defense[159][617] | ✗ | ✓[626] |
| Easter Island (Special territory of Chile) | ✓ Legal since 1999;<br>Age of consent discrepancy<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil unions since 2015 | ✗ Pending | ✗ Pending | ✓ Chile responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Since 2007 |
| Cook Islands (Part of the Realm of New Zealand) | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: 5-14 years imprisonment (Not enforced). Legalization pending[627]<br>✓ Female legal<br>+ UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ New Zealand responsible for defence | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[628] | ✗ |
| French Polynesia (Overseas collectivity of France) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the collectivity) | ✓ Since 2013 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Under French law |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | + UN decl. sign.[48] | | | | | | |
| Niue (Part of the Realm of New Zealand) | ✓ Legal since 2007 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ New Zealand responsible for defence | ? | ? |
| Pitcairn Islands (Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom) | ✓ Legal since 2001 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Since 2015 | ✓ Legal since 2015[629] | ✓ Legal since 2015[630] | ✓ UK responsible for defence | ✓ Constitutional ban on **all** anti-gay discrimination[631] | ? |
| Samoa | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: 5-7 years imprisonment (Not enforced). ✓ Female always legal + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✓ Bans some anti-gay discrimination[632] | ? Samoa has a large transgender or "third-gender" community called the fa'afafine. They are a recognized part of traditional Samoan customs. |
| Tokelau (Part of the Realm of New Zealand) | ✓ Legal since 2007 + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ New Zealand responsible for defence | ✗ | ✗ |
| Tonga | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: Up to 10 years imprisonment (Not enforced). ✓ Female always legal[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Tuvalu | ✗ Male illegal Penalty: Up to 14 years imprisonment (Not enforced). ✓ Female legal + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | Has no military | ✗ | ? |
| Wallis and Futuna (Overseas collectivity of France) | ✓ Legal (No laws against same-sex sexual activity has ever existed in the collectivity) + UN decl. sign.[48] | ✓ Civil solidarity pact since 2009 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ Legal since 2013 | ✓ France responsible for defence | ✓ Bans **all** anti-gay discrimination | ✓ Under French law |

## See also

- Violence against LGBT people
- Buggery
- Civil union
- Heterosexism
- Homophobia
- Intersex human rights
- Movements for civil rights
- Transphobia
- List of human rights articles by country
- List of LGBT rights articles by region
- List of transgender-rights organizations
- LGBT people in prison
- Religion and homosexuality
- Same-sex marriage
- Sexual revolution
- Socialism and LGBT rights
- Societal attitudes toward homosexuality
- Status of same-sex marriage
- Yogyakarta Principles

## Notes

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## External links

- International Lesbian and Gay Association
  - State-sponsored Homophobia report (2015 edition)
  - Lesbian and Gay Rights in the World map (2015 edition)
- Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual: Lawat Curlie
- Amnesty International USA: LGBT legal status around the world – interactive map
- GayLawNet: Laws — information by country
- Human Rights Watch on LGBT Rights
- International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
  - Resource links — for researching legal information
- International Commission of Jurists, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Justice - A Comparative Law Casebook
- United Nations Human Rights Council, *Discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity*, an annual report

- The United Nations, *Living Free and Equal: What States Are Doing to Tackle Violence and Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex People*, November 2016



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